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ABSTRACT

This third biennial "Map and Track" examines state-level efforts to promote positive outcomes for young children, including efforts to enhance children's economic security, healthy growth and development, and school readiness. The report provides information about the following types of state-funded child development and family support efforts in each of the states and the District of Columbia: (1) state supported programs with a central focus on child development or family support; (2) states' efforts to prepare children for school and state kindergarten requirements; and (3) early childhood systems development. Analysis was based on information from the Current Population Survey. Chapter 1 of the report provides an overview of the framework and data collection methods. Chapter 2 provides the findings on state child development and family support efforts. Chapter 3 summarizes secondary source data on state efforts to promote family economic security. Chapter 4 reviews the major findings and provides suggestions for future state early childhood efforts. Following these chapters are individual state profiles for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, accompanied by a reader's guide that provides detailed information about the data, data sources, and dates of data collection. Three appendices include demographic summary tables, technical information on demographic statistics, and tables delineating staff efforts to promote family economic security. (KB)

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MAP AND TRACK

STATE INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

2000 Edition

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Map and Track

State Initiatives for Young Children and Families

2000 Edition

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National Center for Children in Poverty

The **National Center for Children in Poverty** (NCCP) was established in 1989 at the School of Public Health, Columbia University, with core support from the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Center's mission is to identify and promote strategies that prevent child poverty in the United States and that improve the lives of low-income children and their families. NCCP places a special emphasis on preventing or alleviating poverty among children under age six because young child poverty poses particularly serious risks to children's healthy growth and development.

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Section I

OVERVIEW AND FINDINGS

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction and Overview

This report tracks growing state-level efforts to promote positive outcomes for young children, including efforts to enhance children's economic security, healthy growth and development, and school readiness. As the third biennial edition of *Map and Track: State Initiatives for Young Children and Families*, it builds on information released in the 1996 and 1998 editions.

Since the first edition of *Map and Track*, the question of what states are doing to promote the well-being of America's youngest children and their families has, in some ways, become more pressing. A growing number of parents of young children are in the workforce, and many families with young children are struggling financially. Specifically:

- **The proportion of employed mothers continues to increase.** In 1999, 57 percent of mothers with infants under one year of age were in the labor force. Of mothers with children under age six, 65 percent were in the labor force—two-thirds of whom worked full-time.[1]

- **Welfare reform requires most recipients to work.** The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) has contributed to increased employment rates among some of the nation's poorest parents, especially single mothers. However, the loss of benefits, coupled with low wages, keeps many working families from rising above poverty, while parents struggle to raise their children.

- **Despite unprecedented prosperity, nearly one in five young children remains poor.** In 1999, the child poverty rate was the lowest it had been since 1979. Nonetheless, more than four million children under age six continue to live in poverty. And about 40 percent of young children live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.[2]

These changes mean that an increasing proportion of parents with young children, of all income levels, are struggling to balance the demands of work with the challenges of parenting. These stresses are magnified for low-income families, especially those headed by single parents, who tend to have fewer financial resources and often fewer options to help them juggle competing responsibilities.

At the same time, the importance of focusing on the well-being of our nation's youngest citizens has been highlighted by recent developments in early childhood research and a

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growing national interest in promoting successful school entry.

- **Research findings emphasize that children's early years are critically important for later development.** Studies on early brain development show that the quality of children's earliest experiences affects brain growth and later emotional development.[3] Other research finds that the potential negative consequences of poverty—which puts children at great risk for poor school, behavioral, and social outcomes—are especially marked for younger children.[4] Together these findings suggest the importance of linking family economic security with child development and family support initiatives in new ways.

- **Goal One of the national Educate America Act signaled a national interest in school readiness.** Goal One calls for every child to enter school ready to learn. It provides states with a strategic framework to organize efforts to improve outcomes for young children, taking into account their physical, emotional, and cognitive development, as well as school and community factors that influence whether a child enters kindergarten ready to succeed in school.[5]

These demographic trends, research findings, and national goals increase the need and the opportunities for states to use public policy as a key tool to support parents in two of their most important responsibilities—providing for their family's financial well-being and nurturing their children.

The Focus of *Map and Track 2000*

Map and Track 2000 examines the following types of state-level efforts to improve the well-being of young children and their families.

1. **Investing in child development and family support programs.** Child development and family support programs aim to promote nurturing parent-child relationships, help children enter school ready to learn, and support adults in their dual roles as parents and wage earners. Although state-funded programs are varied, some of the more common program types include family support home visiting, prekindergarten, parent education and involvement, and family resource centers. Over time, many child development and family support programs have broadened their goals and service approaches, blurring the lines among distinct program types.

2. **Building coordinated systems of care that address the multiple needs of children, their parents, and families as a whole.** Recognizing that developing individual programs is not sufficient to address the multiple needs of young children and families, state policymakers are increasingly attending to early childhood systems development—developing the infrastructure, resources, and leadership necessary to create a coordinated system of services and supports to address the many needs of young children and their families. Early childhood systems development

efforts typically include some combination of the following: improving the quality of programs and services, developing mechanisms for cross-system collaboration, linking state- and local-level planning, identifying and tracking outcomes, and mobilizing the public around early childhood issues.

3. **Promoting family economic security.** The economic well-being of a young child's family has critical implications for child development. States are investing in two types of efforts that can promote greater economic security for families. The first type includes direct efforts to increase disposable income, such as state income tax policies that allow low-income families to keep larger portions of their earnings and that supplement wages (e.g., through refundable tax credits) and state minimum wage laws that raise the minimum wage above the federal level. The second type includes efforts to provide basic supports, such as child care assistance, health insurance, and food and nutrition benefits. Basic supports help families with limited incomes meet their basic needs and enter and remain in the workforce while ensuring that children have access to services that promote healthy development.

The inclusion of efforts to promote family economic security in this edition of *Map and Track* represents a departure from past editions, which focused more narrowly on state-funded child development and family support programs and early childhood systems development efforts. All of this information has been combined in a single report because policy efforts focused on family economic security and those focused on early childhood development are both critical for the well-being of young children. However, as with past editions, the main focus of *Map and Track 2000* continues to be on child development and family support—both programs and early childhood systems development initiatives.

What *Map and Track 2000* Tracks

Child Development and Family Support

For each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (referred to as a state for simplicity), *Map and Track 2000* provides information about the following state-funded child development and family support efforts:

- **State-supported programs for infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and children from birth to age six:** Programs with a central focus on child development and/or family support, such as an explicit focus on promoting positive parent-child relationships or school readiness.

- **State efforts to prepare children for the transition to school and state kindergarten requirements:** Whether state-funded prekindergarten programs require plans for the transition to kindergarten and whether the state requires school districts to provide half- or full-day kindergarten.

- **Early childhood systems development:** Efforts to improve the quality of programs and services, develop mechanisms for cross-system collaboration, link state- and local-level planning, identify and track outcomes, and mobilize the public around early childhood issues.

To be included in *Map and Track 2000*, state child development and family support efforts must meet the following criteria:

- **Focus:** Included efforts have a central focus on child development and/or child and family relationships. Other than information on child care subsidies and health insurance eligibility (see below), *Map and Track 2000* does not include programs or initiatives whose *predominant* focus is child care (such as initiatives to improve child care quality) or health (such as programs focused only on prenatal or well-baby care). This is for three reasons. First, although some child care and health initiatives explicitly address child development and parent-child relationships, many do not. Second, more research is available on health-focused and child care-focused initiatives (especially the latter) than on the types of efforts profiled here. Finally, *Map and Track* focuses on *state-funded* investments in early childhood, and most child care and health initiatives are funded primarily by federal dollars.

  Map and Track 2000 excludes programs that serve only children with identified developmental delays or disabilities; however, it includes programs that serve children *at risk* for developmental delays because of environmental factors such as poverty.

- **Funding:** Included programs and initiatives had to be funded in fiscal year 2000 with state funds or with federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds that can be used at state discretion. Programs and initiatives that are funded by multiple sources—including federal, local, or private funds—are included as long as the amount of state or TANF funding met the scale criterion described below. Systems development efforts did not have to be funded to be included.

- **Scale:** Fiscal year 2000 spending from state funds or federal TANF funds had to equal or exceed one dollar per child under age six in the state. The purpose of this criterion was to exclude programs without a significant state funding commitment—minor programmatic efforts as well as programs funded primarily by nonstate sources.

Family Economic Security

To examine state efforts to promote family economic security, *Map and Track 2000* provides data on the following policies and benefits:

- **Wage and income supports:** State income tax thresholds, refundable earned income and dependent care tax credits, state minimum wage levels, and TANF benefits.

- **Child care assistance through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF):** CCDF subsidy coverage, subsidy purchasing power, family co-payment burden, and state transfers of TANF block grant funds to CCDF.

- **Health and nutrition assistance:** Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels for young children, Medicaid eligibility levels for parents, food stamp coverage, and state supplements to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

These policy efforts were chosen in part because they have the potential to increase disposable family income—by increasing take-home pay, allowing families to keep more of their earnings, and reducing family expenses. Basic supports such as child care subsidies and health insurance also help to support parental employment as well as provide children with access to services. The range of indicators is limited by available data.

Data Sources and Methodology

To collect the information on state child development and family support efforts, NCCP built on the methodology used in previous editions. An initial survey was sent to a single informant in each state who was knowledgeable about the state's early childhood efforts. These initial contacts, identified with the help of the National Governors' Association, were typically located in governors' offices. The survey asked respondents to identify state programs and initiatives and to suggest names of contacts who could provide more in-depth information. Surveys were followed up between April and October 2000 with phone calls to over 300 key informants in state departments of education, human services, and health. After the data were compiled, all contacts were asked to verify the accuracy of the information.

To examine state efforts to promote family economic security, *Map and Track 2000* uses secondary data from federal agencies and policy research organizations. The data used were the most recent available when the data were compiled; dates of data collection range from 1998 to 2000. See the Reader's Guide to the State Profiles for more detailed information.

Some of the data presented in the individual state profiles and appendices (see Appendix B: Demographic Statistics), such as young child poverty rates and other data about the status of young children and their families, were derived from NCCP's analyses of the March Current Population Surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Due to small sample sizes in some states, the numbers presented are averages based on three years of data—1994, 1996, and 1998. More detailed information about the data and NCCP's analyses is provided in Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics*.

How *Map and Track 2000* is Organized

Chapter 2 provides the findings on state child development and family support efforts, and Chapter 3 summarizes secondary source data on state efforts to promote family economic security. Chapter 4 reviews the report's major findings and provides suggestions for future state early childhood efforts. The chapters are followed by individual state profiles for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The profiles are accompanied by a Reader's Guide that provides detailed information about the data, data sources, and dates of data collection.

The appendices summarize the data presented in the individual state profiles and provide more information about how some of the data were analyzed.

The report's findings are also summarized in *Map and Track 2000 at a Glance*, available in print or on the NCCP Web site: www.nccp.org. The state profiles and selected tables and charts are also available on the Web site.

Endnotes

1. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2000). Employment characteristics of families: Table 5. Employment status of the population by sex, marital status, and presence and age of own children under 18, 1998–99 annual averages and Table 6: Employment status of mothers with own children under 3 years old by single year of age of youngest child, and marital status, 1998–99 annual averages. <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/famee.toc.htm>

2. Bennett, N. G. & Lu, H. (2000). *Child poverty in the states: Levels and tends from 1979 to 1998* (Child Poverty Research Brief No. 2). New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Poverty in the United States* (Current Population Reports No. P60-210). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce: Table 2: Age, Sex, Household Relationship, Race, and Hispanic Origin by Ratio of Income to Poverty Threshold: 1999.

3. Shore, R. (1997). *Rethinking the brain: New insights into early development.* New York, NY: Families and Work Institute.

4. Smith, S.; Brooks-Gunn, J.; & Klebanov, P. (1997). Children in poverty: School readiness and emotional development. In G. J. Duncan & J. Brooks-Gunn, (Eds.). *Consequences of growing up poor.* New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.

Brooks-Gunn, J. & Duncan, G. J. (1997). The effects of poverty on children. *The Future of Children*, 7(2), pp. 55–71.

5. See *Goals 2000: Educate America Act*, P. L. 103-227, enacted March 31, 1994.

CHAPTER 2

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts for Young Children and Families

Across the states there is growing recognition of the importance of investing in young children. However, the levels of state investment and the ways funds are being used vary greatly. This chapter presents the findings on state-supported child development and family support programs and initiatives, highlighting the nature and levels of investments across the states. The chapter is organized in two major parts. The first part focuses on programs the states are developing to serve distinct age groups—infants and toddlers, preschoolers, or all children under age six. It highlights program types, overall trends in state efforts, and challenges reported by the states. The second part focuses on early childhood systems development, that is, state efforts to build comprehensive and coordinated systems of services that address the multiple needs of young children, parents, and families as a whole. A brief section at the end of the chapter summarizes funding trends across program and systems development efforts. Examples of states using different program and systems development approaches are included throughout for illustrative purposes. (See the individual state profiles for more detailed state information.)

State Approaches to Developing Child Development and Family Support Programs

Improving the Well-Being of Infants and Toddlers

Programmatic Approaches

States reported four types of state-funded child development and family support programs that specifically address the needs of infants and toddlers and their families. (As noted in Chapter 1, *Map and Track* does not track efforts that focus *exclusively* on child care or basic health services.[1])

- **Supplements to the federal Early Head Start program.** Early Head Start provides individualized child development and parent education services to low-income infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in home- and center-based settings. The program aims to promote healthy physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development in young children; enhance the quality of parent-child relationships; help families achieve economic security; and enhance parents' capacity to serve as their children's first and primary teachers. Many programs also provide infant and

toddler child care or work with community providers who do. States supplementing Early Head Start use the funds to increase the number of slots, expand part-time programs to full-day and sometimes full-year, and improve the quality of services. For example:

> **Missouri's** Early Head Start supplement provides services through partnerships with existing family child care homes, serving additional children and improving the overall quality of care in participating communities.

- **Home visits to families with newborns, often targeting first-time parents.** An increasing number of states are implementing home visiting programs for new parents to provide them with basic information about parenting and child development and to screen families for various risks (e.g., developmental delays in children, potential child abuse and neglect). Those identified as being at risk are frequently offered ongoing services or referred to other programs designed for families with greater needs (see next program type). Home visitors may be volunteers, paraprofessionals, or public health nurses. Although many of these programs target higher risk families, either explicitly or by being located in areas with high concentrations of poverty, more states are offering programs that are universally available to new parents for an initial visit and screening. For example:

  > **Florida's** Healthy Start provides universal access to health and developmental screenings, parent education, home visits, case management, and referrals to pregnant women and families with infants up to age one (or three in some areas). Local public-private partnerships design and monitor service delivery.

  > **Minnesota's** Healthy Beginnings Home Visiting Program offers expectant and new parents information on parenting, infant growth and development, and health and safety; support for strengthening parenting; and links to community resources.

- **Ongoing family support for families with high-risk infants and toddlers.** Services targeting high-risk families typically aim to strengthen the relationship between parents and infants, help parents with early parenting challenges, ensure that children have access to regular health care, prevent child abuse and neglect, and link families to other services. Services are generally provided through regular home visits by paraprofessionals, social workers, or registered nurses and are sometimes combined with center-based activities (such as parent groups or parent-child activities); a few such programs are entirely center-based. Many of the programs that provide home visits to families with newborns (discussed above) also provide ongoing services for high-risk families, but in other cases, ongoing services are provided by separate programs and may be of higher intensity. For example:

  > **Ohio's** Early Start targets families with infants and toddlers with multiple risk factors and seeks to increase parental knowledge of child development, improve parenting skills, help families deal more effectively with stress, and link families to community resources. Home visits are provided based on individualized family service plans. The program has been expanded to serve TANF families in all counties.

Oklahoma's Children First seeks to promote maternal and child health and positive child and family development outcomes. Public health nurses provide home visits to first-time mothers who are low-income or lack social support, from the prenatal stage until children turn age two.

- **Parent support programs for teens.** Several states reported parent education and family support programs specifically for teenagers or other young parents with infants and toddlers. All seek to educate young parents about child health and development and to promote positive parenting; some provide health services, child care (so parents can complete high school), tutoring, and employment training.

  California's School-Age Parent and Infant Development Program offers parenting classes, parent-child activities, onsite child care, counseling, and health services to pregnant and parenting teens.

  GRADS programs in **Hawaii** and **New Mexico** offer family support, parent education, child health and development services, and child care to pregnant and parenting teens to promote high school graduation and positive parenting.

Families with infants and toddlers are also served by parent education and family support programs open to families with children from birth to age six, some of which have a specific infant and toddler focus. For example, programs based on the Healthy Families America model seek to enroll families while the child is still an infant and continue to provide services through the preschool years. Such programs are described in a separate section below on programs for families with children under age six.

Trends and Challenges

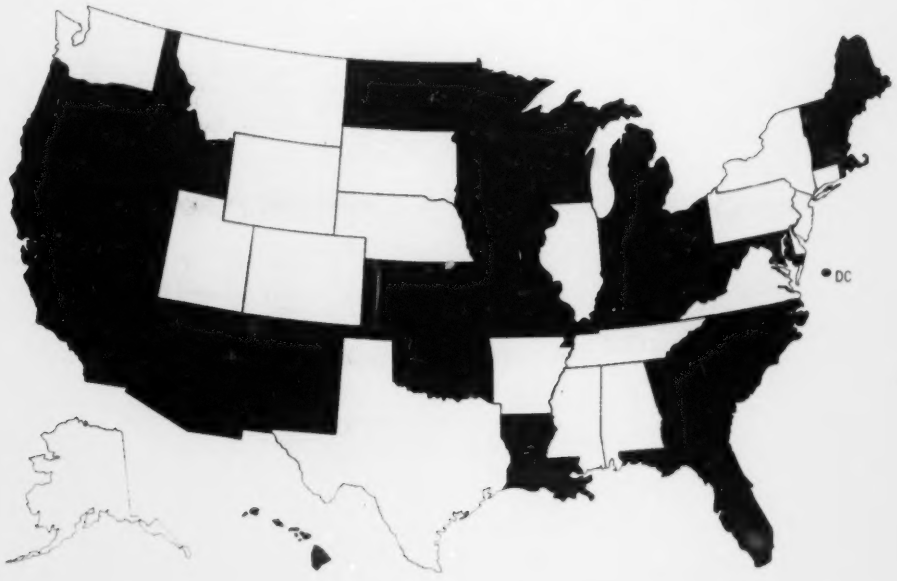
- Thirty-one states funded one or more child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers in fiscal year 2000 (see Map 2.1); 12 states have added programs for infants and toddlers since *Map and Track 1998*.

- Of the 12 states that added programs for this age group, seven of them did not previously have programs that *specifically* targeted infants and toddlers—Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Dakota, South Carolina, and West Virginia. (See Map 2.1.)

- Six states supplemented Early Head Start in fiscal year 2000, up from two states reported in *Map and Track 1998*. The four states with new Early Head Start supplements are Kansas, Missouri, North Carolina, and North Dakota. The other two states that supplement Early Head Start are Minnesota and Oklahoma.

- In fiscal year 2000, states spent a total of $226 million on child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers, in comparison to $108 million reported in *Map and Track 1998*—an increase of 109 percent.[2] However, spending for infants and toddlers represented only 8 percent of total child development and family support program spending for children under age six.

Map 2.1
States Funding Child Development and Family Support Programs for Infants and Toddlers*



■ States funding programs in fiscal year 2000 that *specifically* target infants and toddlers [31]

□ States not funding programs in fiscal year 2000 that *specifically* target infants and toddlers [20]

● States that did not report programs for infants and toddlers in *Map and Track 1998* but have since added such programs [7]

States funding:			
Programs for infants and toddlers [31]		**No programs for infants and toddlers [20]**	
Arizona	Minnesota	Alabama	New Jersey
California	Missouri (●)	Alaska	New York
District of Columbia	Nevada	Arkansas	Pennsylvania
Florida	New Hampshire	Colorado	South Dakota
Georgia	New Mexico	Connecticut	Tennessee
Hawaii	North Carolina	Delaware	Texas
Idaho (●)	North Dakota (●)	Illinois	Utah
Indiana	Ohio	Mississippi	Virginia
Iowa	Oklahoma	Montana	Washington
Kansas	Oregon	Nebraska	Wyoming
Kentucky (●)	Rhode Island		
Louisiana (●)	South Carolina (●)		
Maine	Vermont		
Maryland	West Virginia (●)		
Massachusetts	Wisconsin		
Michigan			

* Note that programs serving children under age 6 may include services that focus on infants and toddlers.

As these data show, more states are investing in child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers and their families. States reported the following challenges:

- **Coordination of home visiting services.** Many states now have multiple state programs that serve infants and toddlers, some of which overlap in terms of families targeted and services offered. This is particularly true of programs with a home visiting component. Many state informants reported a need to coordinate home visiting programs so that families do not receive multiple home visitors and duplicative services, but few states have developed formal coordination mechanisms. One exception is Delaware's Parent Education Partnership, which has established a steering committee to coordinate home visiting services throughout the state.

- **Continuity of services over time.** A second coordination challenge is ensuring continuity of services as infants and toddlers reach prekindergarten age. One problem is that many programs for preschoolers serve only or primarily four-year-olds, leaving three-year-olds without access to services. Even when services are available, transitioning children between programs remains a challenge. Few states reported solutions other than informal referral relationships. An exception is Kansas, which, as part of a new Early Head Start initiative, is addressing the issue of continuity by providing grants to Head Start providers to enable them to serve infants and toddlers. The grants will also allow providers to serve three-year-olds who are not being served through federally funded Head Start.

Promoting School Readiness Among Preschoolers

Programmatic Approaches

State-funded programs for preschoolers ages three to six overwhelmingly focus on school readiness, either by supplementing Head Start or by providing state-designed prekindergarten services. Only three states reported programs for this age group that did not fall into one of these two categories. For example:

- **Supplements to the federal Head Start program.** Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that serves low-income children ages three to five and their families. With the overall goal of increasing school readiness, Head Start provides services in the areas of education and early childhood development; physical and mental health; dental care; nutrition; and parent involvement. As is the case with Early Head Start, states typically use Head Start supplements to increase the number of slots, expand part-time programs to full-day and full-year, and improve the quality of services. For example:

  Alaska's Head Start supplement is used to serve additional children.

  Georgia's supplement enables programs to expand their hours.

In the **District of Columbia**, the supplement covers Head Start teacher salaries.

New Hampshire's supplement enhances teachers' pay.

Maryland's supplement can be used for any of the above purposes.

- **Prekindergarten programs.** Most state-funded prekindergarten programs consist of classroom-based half-day programs (usually 2.5 to 3 hours), but what constitutes prekindergarten is extraordinarily variable. Programs vary along several dimensions: eligibility (most rely on income and/or at least one other risk factor), range of services, intensity (half-day versus full-day, one versus two years), availability of transportation, level of state versus local control, program standards and oversight, and program capacity (percentage of eligible children accommodated).[3] Many programs make referrals for physical and mental health as well as dental services; some address nutrition and encourage parent involvement. The most comprehensive programs are those that have adopted or expanded the Head Start model, while others focus more exclusively on educational components. Some states have detailed prekindergarten standards, while others do not; some follow state child care licensing requirements. To the degree that prekindergarten and child care initiatives have similar standards and requirements, they may provide children with similar experiences.

The most commonly reported funding mechanism for state prekindergarten programs is distributing funds to school districts, which then either provide services directly or subcontract with other providers; some states directly fund nonschool providers in addition to school districts. A handful of states distribute funds to community collaboratives, which then determine how to provide services. States also vary as to whether funds are granted on a formula basis to all qualified entities or whether funds are awarded competitively. And finally, some states provide funding that may be used for any one of a variety of program or service types, with prekindergarten as one choice among many.

Although the programmatic emphasis is on three- and four-year-olds, and programs occasionally serve five-year-olds, in practice prekindergarten programs overwhelmingly serve four-year-olds because of funding and capacity limitations. For example:

Georgia's universal prekindergarten program provides full-day (6.5 hours) classroom-based programs to four-year-olds throughout the state.

Massachusetts' Community Partnerships for Children serves three- and four-year-olds in working families with incomes up to the state median. At least one-third of the slots statewide must provide full-day (6 hours or more), full-year services.

Michigan's School Readiness Program provides classroom- or home-based services to four-year-olds at risk of school failure. Most programs are half-day (2.5 hours), although a new state initiative provides competitive grants to allow programs to extend their hours to accommodate working parents (a minimum of 10 hours of services).

Programs in **Delaware**, **Ohio**, and **Oregon** are based on the Head Start model and serve low-income children. All providers, whether or not they are Head Start grantees, must meet Head Start performance standards. Program hours vary by state.

Children from ages three to six and their families are also served by other types of programs—such as parent education, family support, and family literacy programs—that are available to families with children from birth to age six. These programs are discussed in a separate section below.

Trends and Challenges

- Forty states funded one or more child development and family support programs for preschoolers in fiscal year 2000. (See Map 2.2.)

- States spent a total of $2.1 billion on child development and family support programs for preschoolers in fiscal year 2000—a 24 percent increase over the $1.7 billion reported in *Map and Track 1998*. The vast majority of these funds—which represented over 75 percent of total child development and family support program spending for children under age six—supported prekindergarten services.

- Forty-three states fund prekindergarten by supplementing Head Start, providing their own prekindergarten programs, or both. Note that this includes nine states that allocate flexible funds that *may* be used to support prekindergarten but may support other services as well; in most of these cases, these flexible funds target children from birth to age six—not just preschoolers. (See Table 2.1.)

- Three states have added prekindergarten programs since *Map and Track 1998*—Kansas, Missouri, and Nevada—and seven states have added Head Start supplements—Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Texas. With the exception of Georgia, Maryland, and Texas, none of these states previously had programs for preschoolers.

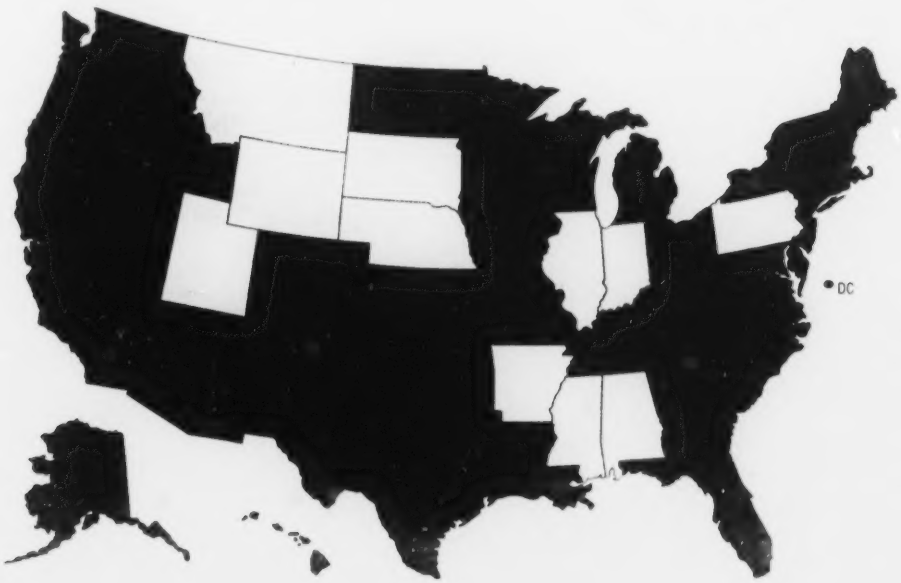
- Since *Map and Track 1998*, Oklahoma has expanded its prekindergarten program to make it universal in most districts. Currently, only four states—the District of Columbia, Georgia, New York, and Oklahoma—have universal prekindergarten programs; New York's program is only partially phased in.

- Only a quarter of states that provide prekindergarten funding reported that they require grantees to submit a transition plan, i.e., a plan to prepare children for the transition to kindergarten. Most states reported that they encourage providers to have such a plan.

- Thirty-eight states require school districts to provide half-day kindergarten, and nine states require full-day kindergarten; four states do not require districts to provide kindergarten.

Map 2.2

States Funding Child Development and Family Support Programs for Preschoolers*



States funding programs in fiscal year 2000 that *specifically* target preschoolers [40]

States not funding programs in fiscal year 2000 that *specifically* target preschoolers [11]

• States that did not report programs for preschoolers in *Map and Track 1998* but have since added such programs [6]

States funding:			
Programs for preschoolers [40]		**No programs for preschoolers [11]**	
Alaska	Missouri (•)	Alabama	Nebraska
Arizona	Nevada (•)	Arkansas	Pennsylvania
California	New Hampshire	Illinois	South Dakota
Colorado	New Jersey	Indiana	Utah
Connecticut	New Mexico (•)	Mississippi	Wyoming
Delaware	New York	Montana	
District of Columbia	North Carolina		
Florida	North Dakota (•)		
Georgia	Ohio		
Hawaii	Oklahoma		
Idaho (•)	Oregon		
Iowa	Rhode Island		
Kansas (•)	South Carolina		
Kentucky	Tennessee		
Louisiana	Texas		
Maine	Vermont		
Maryland	Virginia		
Massachusetts	Washington		
Michigan	West Virginia		
Minnesota	Wisconsin		

* Note that programs serving children under age 6 may include services that focus on preschoolers.

Table 2.1
States Funding Prekindergarten Through State Programs and Head Start Supplements, Fiscal Year 2000

State program and Head Start supplement [18]	State program only [21]	Head Start supplement only [4]	Funds no prekindergarten [8]
Connecticut	Arizona*	Alaska	Alabama
District of Columbia	Arkansas*	Idaho	Indiana
Georgia	California	New Hampshire	Mississippi
Hawaii	Colorado	North Dakota	Montana
Kansas	Delaware		Pennsylvania**
Maine	Florida		South Dakota
Maryland	Illinois*		Utah
Massachusetts	Iowa		Wyoming
Minnesota*	Kentucky		
New Jersey*	Louisiana		
New Mexico*	Michigan		
North Carolina*	Missouri		
Ohio	Nebraska*		
Oklahoma	Nevada		
Rhode Island*	New York		
Texas	Oregon		
Washington	South Carolina		
Wisconsin	Tennessee		
	Vermont		
	Virginia		
	West Virginia		

* State allocates funds to localities that may be used for prekindergarten but that may also be used for other services for young children.

** Pennsylvania allows school districts to use aid provided for grades K–12 to serve 4-year-olds in kindergarten programs.

In sum, the majority of states fund some sort of prekindergarten effort by supplementing Head Start, offering a separate state-funded program, and/or providing funds that may be used for prekindergarten but also for other purposes. However, attention to the transition to kindergarten is limited.

States reported the following challenges in providing prekindergarten services:

- **Tension between universal eligibility as a goal and the reality of limited access.** More policymakers are endorsing universal prekindergarten as a policy goal. However, only four prekindergarten programs in the country are attempting to implement universal eligibility, although a number of states have expanded access, and many states have expressed a desire to do so. Regardless of intent, only an estimated 10 percent of three- and four-year-olds across the country are currently being served by state-funded prekindergarten programs.[4] This is true despite tremendous growth in prekindergarten programs in recent years and despite the fact that prekindergarten spending accounts for the overwhelming majority of total state investments in child development and family support programming for children under age six.

- **Expanding program hours to accommodate working parents.** With the majority of preschoolers' parents in the workforce, there is mounting pressure on states to expand program hours. States are funding full-day (i.e., a 6-hour school day) and extended-day (i.e., a 10-hour working day) services in three major ways: through the prekindergarten initiative itself (e.g., in Georgia), through a separate pool of

funds dedicated to expanding hours of program operation (e.g., in Michigan and Texas), and through collaboration among prekindergarten, Head Start, and child care programs (e.g., in Washington). Most collaborations between child care and prekindergarten and/or Head Start programs have occurred at the local rather than the state level or through the activities of federally funded Head Start-State Collaboration Offices. However, one state—Connecticut—blends prekindergarten with child care through a single state-level initiative to provide extended-day services.

These challenges reflect some of the competing priorities within prekindergarten programs. Respondents also reported that prekindergarten competes with other programs for resources and political attention. They pointed to:

- **Competition between prekindergarten and subsidized child care.** Informants in a number of states mentioned that expanding access to prekindergarten competes with improving access to and the quality of subsidized child care. Welfare reform and increased employment rates among mothers of young children have increased pressure on child care subsidy systems. And in some states, child care has been given priority because of concerns about improving the quality of care for all young children, especially infants and toddlers.

- **Competition between prekindergarten and primary education.** Informants in several states that are working to implement full-day kindergarten mentioned that such efforts are in competition with efforts to expand prekindergarten. A couple of states grappling with financial crises in elementary education have put prekindergarten and other early childhood initiatives on hold. Further, funding mechanisms in a small number of states have resulted in direct competition for funds between early childhood programs and elementary schools.

A final challenge focuses on preparing children for school:

- **The transition to school.** The majority of respondents who provided information about state prekindergarten programs expressed concerns about school readiness and preparing children for the transition to kindergarten, which in almost all states marks the beginning of public education. However, most state-funded prekindergarten programs do not require transition efforts among providers. Beyond issues of transition, a handful of states reported a lack of continuity of services—children who are in full-day prekindergarten programs do not have access to full-day services once they reach kindergarten.

Providing Parent Education and Family Support to Families with Young Children

Programmatic Approaches

States are funding four major types of child development and family support programs that target families with children from birth to age six (some target children up to age

eight), most of which are family-centered. Such programs focus on a range of outcomes for parents, children, and families as a whole, such as promoting positive parenting, supporting parental employment, promoting children's school readiness, improving family literacy, and increasing access to services. The categories described below represent general approaches; many programs do not fit neatly in a single category.

- **Family resource centers.** Family resource centers are usually neighborhood-based, are sometimes located in or near schools, and generally offer some combination of the following: parent education; child development screening, assessment, and/or programming; child care; health services; family literacy programs; and referrals to other programs and resources. Although many target families with young children—sometimes up to age six or eight—others also serve families with older children and do not necessarily have a specific focus on young children. In most states, all families in the community or school district where centers are located are eligible for services; many centers are located in predominantly low-income and higher risk areas. Some family resource centers are connected to other programs, for example, providing center-based services in conjunction with family support home visiting programs. For example:

  > **West Virginia's** Starting Points Family Resource Centers offer comprehensive child development, parent education, health, nutrition, and family support services to families with young children in schools or other neighborhood locations, beginning prenatally. Centers can serve children up to age eight.

- **Family support home visiting programs.** These programs typically offer home visits and referrals to community resources to families considered at risk of poor child outcomes. They generally seek to promote positive parenting and parent-child interaction, strengthen family functioning, and prevent child abuse and neglect. Although family support home visiting programs vary in the intensity of services provided, they generally begin with an initial assessment and offer services on an ongoing basis in accordance with family need. The Healthy Families America model is an example of this program type. Most Healthy Families programs target families with children from birth to age five, but because the model emphasizes prevention, many seek to identify families when the child is still an infant. Some states that report no specific programs for infants and toddlers serve them through programs such as these. For example:

  > **Hawaii's** Healthy Start Family Support Program, from which Healthy Families America is derived, offers home-based intervention for families with young children to enhance parent functioning, promote child development, and prevent child abuse and neglect among at-risk families.

- **School-linked parent education and involvement programs.** These programs seek to connect parents with the school system before their children are old enough to attend, as well as to assist parents with the challenges of parenting. Services may include parent groups and other parent education activities, parent-child activities, child care, and referrals to other programs. Although many of these programs target

families with children up to age five, some focus on families with infants and toddlers. Most of these programs are open to all families who reside within the school district in which the program is located; many are located in higher-risk communities. Parents as Teachers is an example of this program type; there are many state-designed versions as well. For example:

> **Missouri's** Parents as Teachers offers home visits, parent education, developmental screenings for children, and referrals to needed services to all families with children from birth to age five. All school districts are required to provide the program. Specialized approaches have been developed to serve high-needs families.

- **Block grants or flexible funds to support early childhood programming.** Since *Map and Track 1996*, an increasing number of states have created flexible pools of funds to support local early childhood programs. The range of services that communities can choose to provide with these flexible funds varies widely. Some funds target children up to age five and are earmarked for prekindergarten, parent education, or family support programs, while others target children up to age eight and can be used to support full-day kindergarten or before- and after-school care. Two states, Arizona and Illinois, now "block grant" funds that previously supported separate early childhood programs. Flexible funding streams for early childhood also vary by the degree of state oversight and control. For example:

> **Illinois'** Early Childhood Block Grant, implemented in 1998, combines funding for three previously separate early childhood programs: prekindergarten, the Model Parent Training Program, and the Prevention Initiative. Eight percent of the funds must go to programs that serve children from birth to age three, and proposals must demonstrate a link among the three programs. The majority of the funds reportedly support prekindergarten.

Trends and Challenges

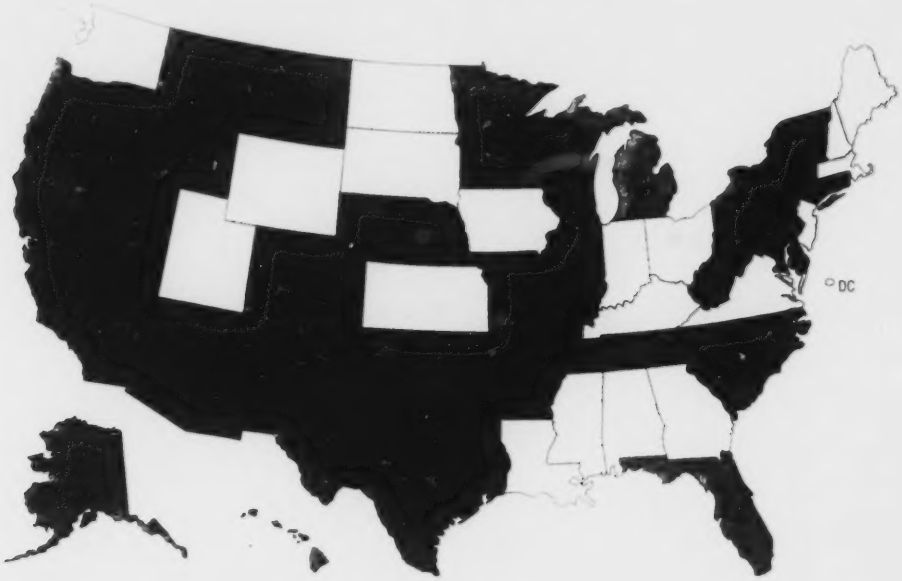
- Thirty-one states funded one or more programs that target children under age six and their families in fiscal year 2000 (see Map 2.3); six states have added programs for this age group since *Map and Track 1998*.

- Of those states that added programs for children under age six, four did not previously have programs for this age group—Florida, Idaho, Maryland, and Michigan. (See Map 2.3.)

- In fiscal year 2000, states spent a total of $406 million on child development and family support programs for children under age six and their families, in comparison to $122 million reported in *Map and Track 1998*. Much of the increase is due to Illinois' decision to block grant early childhood funds, thus shifting its spending from the infant/toddler and preschooler categories to the birth-to-age-six category. Not including Illinois' $170 million block grant, overall state spending for programs for children up to age six increased by about 93 percent.

Map 2.3

States Funding Child Development and Family Support Programs for Children Under Age Six



States funding programs in fiscal year 2000 for children under age 6 [31]

States not funding programs in fiscal year 2000 for children under age 6 [20]

• States that did not report programs for children under age 6 in *Map and Track 1998* but have since added such programs [4]

States funding:			
Programs for children under age 6 [31]		**No programs for children under age 6 [20]**	
Alaska	Nebraska	Alabama	New Jersey
Arizona	Nevada	District of Columbia	North Dakota
Arkansas	New Mexico	Georgia	Ohio
California	New York	Indiana	South Dakota
Colorado	North Carolina	Iowa	Utah
Connecticut	Oklahoma	Kansas	Virginia
Delaware	Oregon	Kentucky	Washington
Florida (•)	Pennsylvania	Louisiana	Wyoming
Hawaii	Rhode Island	Maine	
Idaho (•)	South Carolina	Massachusetts	
Illinois	Tennessee	Mississippi	
Maryland (•)	Texas	New Hampshire	
Michigan (•)	Vermont		
Minnesota	West Virginia		
Missouri	Wisconsin		
Montana			

The challenges state respondents voiced about programs for children under age six were more varied than the challenges described for the other two groups of programs. However, three issues surfaced repeatedly:

- **Coordination of services across programs.** Some states now have multiple programs providing similar family support services, some targeting families with children from birth to age six and others focusing on infants and toddlers. Respondents expressed concerns about service duplication and families contending with multiple home visitors.

- **The need for targeted services versus the goal of universality.** Most state-funded family support programs serve all families in the community but end up serving low-income and at-risk families because of where they are located. Some state respondents expressed a desire to be able to provide family support services to all families, regardless of income or risk. But the desire is tempered by the reality that in most states, there is insufficient political support to achieve this goal. Given limited resources, state administrators typically choose to provide services to families in greatest need. Minnesota's Early Childhood Family Education program has addressed this challenge by providing universal parent education and family support services, supplemented by targeted and more intensive services to families in greatest need.

- **Balancing community flexibility with ensuring consistent programming.** The most common rationale for flexible funding streams is that they allow localities to tailor services to local need. But some state respondents expressed concerns about the unevenness of services that may result, suggesting that the best solution is to balance community flexibility with state standards and oversight.

State Approaches to Developing Early Childhood Systems

As states strive to help parents meet the dual demands of work and parenting and to promote state and national goals of ensuring that young children enter school ready to succeed, they are increasingly attending to early childhood systems development—that is, developing the infrastructure, resources, and leadership necessary to create a coordinated system of services and supports to address the many needs of young children and their families.

In comparison to *Map and Track 1998*, many more states reported initiatives aimed at addressing early childhood issues at a systems level rather than at the level of specific programs or services. Although these efforts are varied, all aim to improve the services and service delivery systems for young children and typically involve one or more of the following:

- Developing, expanding, and improving the quality of programs and services for young children and families;

- Creating or enhancing the infrastructure and other mechanisms necessary to provide for cross-system collaboration and service integration at the state level;
- Linking state- and local-level planning and initiatives;
- Developing and sustaining leadership for planning, decision making, and mobilizing resources on behalf of young children and families;
- Identifying and tracking outcomes related to young child and family well-being; and
- Educating, engaging, and mobilizing the public around early childhood issues.

The early childhood systems development efforts reported in this edition of *Map and Track* range from large-scale initiatives with most of these components to small-scale efforts that are narrowly focused or have few or no dedicated state resources. In addition, some states are developing multi-age approaches that focus on children of all ages but may include attention to young children.

Comprehensive Systems Development Initiatives

Four states—California, Kentucky, North Carolina, and South Carolina—are implementing comprehensive initiatives, marked by large-scale, well-funded statewide approaches to addressing multiple aspects of early childhood systems development simultaneously. North Carolina's initiative began in 1993; the others have emerged since 1998.

Comprehensive initiatives are often championed by governors but also require strong legislative support and the involvement of high-level administrators. The majority embody most or all of the aspects of systems development highlighted above, with a special focus on promoting partnerships (among states and localities, across the public and private sectors, and within different service sectors) as the vehicle to expand child development and family support services and to make them more responsive to family needs. Comprehensive initiatives typically require assessment of whether the broad goals guiding the initiative—such as improving the health, development, safety, and school readiness of young children—are actually being achieved. Some also explicitly provide for technical assistance efforts to help local communities achieve these results. For example:

> In 1998, **California**, as a result of a statewide referendum known as Proposition 10, passed the California Children and Families Act. The goal of the initiative is to develop integrated and collaborative early childhood development programs and family services. The initiative creates the California Children and Families Commission to provide statewide leadership, fund research projects and model programs, support a public education campaign, and work with county-level commissions. Funding for the initiative, raised from tobacco taxes, totaled about $690 million in fiscal year 2000; 80 percent of the funds go to the county commissions to meet locally identified needs.
>
> **Kentucky's** Governor's Early Childhood Initiative, passed in the spring of 2000, allocates 25 percent of the state's Phase I tobacco settlement funds—expected to total

about $56 million over two years—to address the health, safety, school readiness, and general well-being of the state's young children, with a focus on infants and toddlers. In addition to supporting a variety of maternal and child health, family support, and early care and education services, the initiative creates an Early Childhood Development Authority to oversee the initiative and to allocate funds to local community councils. A Business Council made up of business and community leaders promotes the involvement of local businesses and governments in early childhood efforts, and a Professional Development Council works to create an education and training system for early care and education providers.

North Carolina's Smart Start initiative, begun in 1993, is a public/private initiative focused on helping children to enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Growing from an initial state investment of $68 million to $219 million in fiscal year 2000, the initiative has now been implemented in every county. The bulk of the funds support early care and education, but some funds are used for child health and family support services. The initiative is administered by the North Carolina Partnership for Children, a public/private organization that provides state-level leadership and technical assistance to the counties and sets statewide benchmarks for young children and families.

South Carolina enacted First Steps to School Readiness to help ensure that all children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. Modeled directly after North Carolina's Smart Start, this state-level public/private partnership is charged with creating local partnerships to assess local needs and engage in strategic planning to address lifelong learning, early education, quality child care, health care, and transportation. The initiative was funded at $20 million in fiscal year 2000, with an increase to $30 million in fiscal year 2001.

Incremental Approaches to Early Childhood Systems Building

A second pathway to building well-developed early childhood systems involves incremental steps. Some states that started by developing an array of child development and family support programs are now turning their attention to larger systems development issues, such as planning, cross-system collaboration and service coordination, and developing goals and outcome measures. Other states are undertaking more gradual efforts to link program development with systems building, often focusing on a specific age group (e.g., infants/toddlers, preschoolers) or a subset of early childhood services. For example:

Massachusetts invests in an array of child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers—spending about $26 million—as well as for preschoolers—spending $100 million. Community Partnerships for Children, the state's prekindergarten program, is now available to three- and four-year-olds from working families with incomes up to the state median. Services are delivered through broad-based local collaboratives. Most recently, the state has developed an Infant Toddler Summit to assess current services for infants and toddlers, address service gaps and duplication, and plan for a comprehensive service delivery system. The project operates out of the State Executive Office of Health and Human Services and includes a broad range of partners, including multiple state agencies, community providers, universities, foundations, and advocacy organizations.

Minnesota's child development and family support programs include Early Childhood Family Education, which offers a variety of services and events for parents, children,

and families on a universal basis: prekindergarten services through School Readiness and a supplement to Head Start; and Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening, which screens all children prior to public school entry. Program spending totaled about $53 million in fiscal year 2000. Last year, the state legislature directed the Department of Children, Families, and Learning to develop a plan to improve and integrate existing early care and education services to promote school readiness—children's physical, social, cognitive, and emotional readiness, as well as schools' readiness for children. The department's efforts have involved input from early childhood teachers, service providers, and administrators, and policymakers and parents.

Vermont provides child development and family support services to infants, toddlers, and their families through a network of parent-child centers. Vermont has a preschool program and has used its Success by Six program as a vehicle for communities to design comprehensive services to ensure that all young children are ready for school. The state-level Early Childhood Steering Committee brings together representatives from various state agencies, early childhood programs, community networks and agencies, child care providers, and parent groups to engage in strategic planning and to promote regional planning and evaluation. The steering committee has been instrumental in developing a shared vision for the state's young children. Vermont has developed statewide benchmarks, and regularly provides data to each region on how it is doing.

West Virginia has developed a network of Starting Points Family Resource Centers across the state that serve as a focal point for the delivery of a range of services for young children and their families. The state has a prekindergarten program and has recently implemented a parent education initiative for families with infants and toddlers. For fiscal year 2001, the legislature allocated $1 million to pilot Educare, an initiative that will distribute funds to community collaboratives to increase the quality and supply of services for families with young children to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. The Governor's Early Childhood Implementation Commission, which in turn is linked to the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families, has been the impetus behind the state's coordinated early childhood efforts. Coupled with the strategic use of emerging opportunities and strong leadership, the efforts of the commission and the cabinet have resulted in a steady growth in the state's commitment to and investment in young children.

Limited Collaboration as a Step Toward Early Childhood Systems Building

A third category of early childhood systems building includes more limited approaches. These are characteristic of states that have not invested significant resources in programs and services for young children. (Five states—Alabama, Mississippi, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming—funded no child development or family support programs in fiscal year 2000). Limited approaches are often spearheaded by mid-level state administrators, advocates, or service providers to generate support for an early childhood agenda. Some involve the creation of state-level interagency offices, while others involve mobilizing multiple stakeholders to engage in strategic planning. Some limited approaches reflect the failure of a broader strategy. For example, Alabama and Mississippi both reported the creation of new state-level offices to promote school readiness after failed attempts to fund prekindergarten efforts. These more limited approaches have the potential to func-

tion as stepping stones to broader efforts on behalf of young children and families, but, as with some limited approaches reported in earlier editions of *Map and Track*, they may also falter due to a lack of legislative or gubernatorial support. For example:

> **Alabama's** governor created the Department of Children's Affairs in 1999 with private grant funding. Then, in May 2000, the Office of School Readiness (based on Georgia's office with the same name) was established, despite the defeat of legislation to implement a statewide lottery to fund prekindergarten. The aim of the office is to encourage public/private partnerships to promote investments in young children.
>
> **North Dakota's** Children's Services Coordinating Committee, whose members include representatives from the governor's office and relevant state agencies, is promoting a five-year comprehensive early care and education plan that was drafted at the North Dakota Early Care and Education Summit, held in fall 2000. The resulting document will be used to inform community leaders and state legislators about priority concerns facing North Dakota's families. In fiscal year 2000, for the first time, North Dakota invested $520,000 in two new programmatic efforts for young children.

Multi-Age Approaches to Systems Development

Unlike the early childhood systems development efforts just discussed, multi-age approaches do not focus explicitly on young children; rather, the general aim is to improve service delivery and outcomes for all children and families. However, in some states, localities choose the focus of their efforts, and some may focus on young children. In other states, the state itself calls for special attention to young children in the context of a broader initiative. For example:

> **Michigan's** 1995 systems reform initiative, Putting It Together with Michigan Families (PIT), led directors of human services agencies in all counties to form Multi-Purpose Collaborative Bodies with other stakeholders to devise new ways to improve outcomes for children and families. Most have a work group focused on early childhood service planning and development. At the state level, an interagency group called the PIT Crew has been formed to work across systems, share information, coordinate efforts, collaborate on common goals, and recommend policy and practice strategies. This group—which includes directors from human services, education, health, and mental health agencies as well as representatives of individual programs—meets regularly and has begun to develop a shared vision for early childhood services and supports.
>
> **Oregon's** State Commission on Children and Families sets guidelines for the planning, coordination, and delivery of services by local county commissions, with the goal of fostering interagency collaboration among programs for children from birth to age 18 and their families. The commission provides counties with training, technical support, and staff funds, while local commissions facilitate the development of a local Coordinated Community Plan, which includes an early childhood plan for children prenatally to age eight. Localities have wide discretion in implementation, but they must address outcomes of school readiness, immunizations, and infant and toddler development. All but 8 percent of the $37 million commission budget in fiscal year 2000 was released to counties, including a $4 million early childhood grant stream entitled Great Start.

Trends and Challenges

- Thirty states report some level of early childhood systems-building efforts. Although not all of these efforts focus exclusively on young children, this nonetheless represents a substantial increase over the 16 states that reported such systems-level initiatives in *Map and Track 1998*.

- Three states—California, Kentucky, and South Carolina—have implemented new comprehensive early childhood initiatives that address multiple aspects of early childhood systems development simultaneously. North Carolina has continued to increase funding for its Smart Start initiative.

- Nine states—Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia—report the implementation of incremental but nonetheless substantial strategies to link programs or services, sometimes for a specific age group, with infrastructure and planning efforts.

- Fifteen states report limited efforts to promote infrastructure development and state-level attention to the needs of young children, and another 12 report multi-age approaches, some of which include attention to young children and families.

Many state informants noted that sustained leadership—whether from the governor or from high-level or mid-level administrators—is key to effective systems-building. Strong leadership has been central to efforts in many states that have steadily increased their investments in young children and families since the first edition of *Map and Track*. State informants also noted several areas of concern:

- **Gubernatorial initiatives face particular threats when there is a transition in government.** Promoting better outcomes for young children is not a partisan issue, but initiatives identified with a particular governor—especially named initiatives—may be challenging to sustain under a change of administration. This may be true even if the transition is within the same party, particularly if a new governor wants to lay claim to a different issue.

- **Systems-building efforts are likely to do little without funded services.** Some states have adopted strategies designed to promote early care and education efforts through collaboration. But without state funding for services—either through the systems development initiative itself or through individual programs—collaborative efforts may do little to alter the well-being of children and families, although they may serve as a catalyst for more action.

- **Convincing legislators to support investments in early childhood is challenging.** Many respondents reported having to work hard to convince state legislators to support initiatives for young children. Some lamented not having adequate data to demonstrate the worthiness of proposed programs or initiatives. Others mentioned the temptation to "oversell" an effort, only to experience funding cuts because

an initiative did not measure up to initial expectations. Term limits complicate the issue, because state administrators and advocates must educate new legislators about the importance of investing in early childhood. All legislators—whether concerned about reelection or aspirations for higher office—may be hesitant to support programs that require significant investments but cannot demonstrate results in the short term.

Overall Funding Trends

When state spending for child development and family support programs in fiscal year 2000 is combined with state spending for early childhood systems development, two points are clear: (1) overall state spending has increased substantially over the levels reported in *Map and Track 1998*, and (2) although most states increased funding, the gains have been uneven.

- **Total state spending for child development and family support efforts has increased by almost 90 percent since *Map and Track 1998*.** States invested a total of over $3.7 billion in child development and family support programs and early childhood systems development efforts in fiscal year 2000, an increase of about 87 percent. New initiatives in California and increased funding for North Carolina's Smart Start account for much of this increase. Program funding alone increased 43 percent.

- **Thirty-three states reported overall funding increases of 10 percent or more.** But five states reported increases of less than 10 percent in child development and family support spending since *Map and Track 1998*, 10 states had no change in funding levels, and two states—Alabama and Nevada—reported overall decreases in spending.[5]

- **The overall increase in state funding is substantial when considered on a per capita basis but varies widely from state to state.** A comparison of states' total investments in child development and family support with the number of children from birth to age six in each state shows that state spending per child under age six increased from approximately $84 to $157 since *Map and Track 1998*. But this figure varied greatly, depending on the state. While six states—California, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Oklahoma—spent more than $200 per child under age six in fiscal year 2000,[6] 14 states—Alabama, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming—spent $20 or less. (See Table 2.2.)

- **Most of the large increases in spending have come from sources other than state general revenues.** Many of the most significant spending gains for young children reported in *Map and Track 2000* were financed by federal TANF funds; tobacco settlement funds; or funds raised through lotteries, gambling fees, cigarette taxes, or other dedicated funds—not state general revenues.

Table 2.2

Per Capita State Spending on Child Development and Family Support Efforts, Fiscal Year 2000

Dollars spent per child under age 6				
More than $200* [6]	**Between $100 and $200 [14]**	**Between $20 and $100** [16]**	**Between $0 and $20 [9]**	**No funds [5]**
California	Alaska	Arizona	Idaho	Alabama
District of Columbia	Connecticut	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi
Georgia	Delaware	Colorado	Montana	South Dakota
Massachusetts	Florida	Hawaii	Nebraska	Utah
North Carolina	Illinois	Indiana	Nevada	Wyoming
Oklahoma	Kentucky	Iowa	New Hampshire	
	Minnesota	Kansas	North Dakota	
	Missouri	Maine	Pennsylvania	
	Ohio	Maryland	Tennessee	
	Oregon	Michigan		
	Rhode Island	New Mexico		
	South Carolina	New York		
	Texas	Vermont		
	Wisconsin	Virginia		
		Washington		
		West Virginia		

* Although New Jersey's spending fell above $200 per child under age 6, it is not included because the state's funding figures include a substantial amount of kindergarten spending.

** No state in this category spent less than $40 per child under age 6.

Endnotes

1. See Chapter 1 for a discussion of the inclusion and exclusion criteria for programs.

2. These figures do not include spending for programs that target children up to age six that may have a specific focus on infants and toddlers.

3. For more in-depth information about state-funded prekindergarten programs, see: Schulman, K.; Blank, H; & Ewen, D. (1999). *Seeds of success: State prekindergarten initiatives, 1998–1999.* Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.

Ripple, C. H.; Gilliam, W.; Chanana, N.; & Zigler, E. (1999). Will 50 cooks spoil the broth? The debate over entrusting Head Start to the states. *American Psychologist,* 54(5), 327–343.

4. NCCP estimated this figure by adding the number of children served by *state*-funded prekindergarten programs reported by the states and the number of children served by Head Start supplements as reported by Schulman, Blank, and Ewen (1999) (see endnote 3); we then divided this figure by the number of three- and four-year olds in the country, which we estimated from the March Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Note that the estimate does not include federally or locally funded prekindergarten programs.

5. Alabama reported a pilot preschool program in *Map and Track 1998* which has been discontinued. The District of Columbia is not included in these figures, since it was not included in *Map and Track 1998.*

6. Although New Jersey's per capita spending was above $200, it is not included here because its funding figures include some kindergarten spending.

CHAPTER 3

State Policy Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

The economic well-being of a young child's family has critical implications for child development. However, parental employment may not be sufficient to meet a family's basic needs. Even full-time employment may not keep a family out of poverty: at the federal minimum wage, a person working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, makes only $10,712—only 76 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of three.[1] In the absence of higher paying jobs, additional strategies are needed to promote family economic security. State policymakers can assist low-income families through two general approaches: taking advantage of the opportunities provided by federal programs and initiating state-designed supports, often using federal policies as a model. Over the last five years, state discretion over the implementation of federal benefit programs has expanded considerably, increasing the significance of state policy choices.

This report explores two ways in which states can promote family economic security:

- **Efforts to enhance family income.** The report examines state income tax policies that allow low-income families to keep larger portions of their earnings and that supplement wages (e.g., through refundable tax credits), state minimum wage laws that raise the minimum wage above the federal level, and state choices regarding benefit levels for the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

- **Efforts to provide basic supports, including child care assistance, health insurance, and food and nutrition benefits.** The report examines state policy choices about the implementation of the federal Child Care and Development Fund; Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program; food stamps; and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

The state policy data presented in this chapter are drawn from secondary sources—published reports as well as unpublished data provided by federal agencies and policy research organizations. The indicators selected represent the best information for characterizing these policies for all 50 states and the District of Columbia (referred to as a state for simplicity), based on available data. The data do not reflect all state policy efforts to promote family economic security; one major exclusion is housing supports. The data reflect the most up-to-date information available at the time the report was compiled. Since the dates of data collection range from 1998 to 2000, recent policy changes may not be reflected. Dates of data collection and data sources are noted in endnotes

throughout the chapter. In addition, the Reader's Guide to the State Profiles describes the indicators and provides information about data sources and dates of data collection.

State Efforts to Enhance Family Income

Despite unprecedented prosperity in the 1990s, nearly one in five children under age six lived in poverty in 1999. Nearly 40 percent of young children lived in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.[2] Part of the problem is low wages. Between 1994 and 1998, 8 percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time remained in poverty and 31 percent remained below 200 percent of the poverty level.[3]

State Income Tax, Minimum Wage, and TANF Policies

In recent years, many states have begun to examine how their income tax policies affect low-income families. As a result, some states have sought actively to reduce tax burdens; for example, some states that used to require families living below the poverty level to pay taxes no longer do so. But some states have gone a step further by using state income tax policies to *supplement* family incomes. The primary mechanism for doing this is refundable tax credits, which offset family tax burdens and function as a wage supplement for families whose credits exceed their tax liability. Nonrefundable credits also offset the tax burden for some families, but they provide no benefits to families whose incomes are too low to owe state taxes.

Nine states do not tax personal income. Although this may reduce the tax burden for low-income families, it leaves states without a mechanism to provide refundable credits. In addition, states without income taxes may rely more heavily on regressive taxes, such as sales taxes, which consume a disproportionate share of low-income families' resources.[4]

For states that tax personal income, this report examines:

- **Level of tax threshold.** The state tax threshold is the income level at which a family begins to owe state income tax.

- **Refundable earned income credits.** State earned income credits are modeled on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). By definition, these are available only to families with earnings. Unlike nonrefundable credits, refundable earned income credits provide benefits even if a family has no tax liability. In general, state credits follow federal eligibility rules and are expressed as a percentage of the federal EITC.

- **Refundable dependent care credits.** State dependent care credits are modeled on the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CADC), although often with additional eligibility limits. The federal CADC is nonrefundable, but some states offer refundable dependent care tax credits.

This report also examines state minimum wage levels and the generosity of TANF benefits.

- **Level of state minimum wage.** The federal minimum wage of $5.15 per hour has not kept pace with inflation; its real value is 21 percent lower today than it was in 1979. In addition, the purchasing power of the federal minimum wage varies across the states because of differences in the cost of living. For families that rely on minimum wage employment, setting a state minimum wage that exceeds the federal level will provide higher earnings. Research on the federal minimum wage suggests that due to so-called spillover effects, workers earning wages slightly above the new minimum will also benefit from minimum wage increases.[5]

- **Generosity of TANF Benefits.** In 1996, the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) created TANF, which provides block grants to the states to design work-focused, time-limited cash assistance programs. One of the critical decisions states make in implementing TANF is determining the generosity of benefits provided to recipients.

Findings*

- Among the 42 states with income taxes, the threshold varies widely. For a single-parent family of three, it ranges from $4,600 in Alabama to $33,700 in California.[6, 7] The 2000 federal poverty level for a family of three is $14,150.

- In 22 states, a single-parent family of three living below the poverty level is exempt from paying state income tax. Twenty states tax such families. Four states—Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, and Virginia—tax families below 50 percent of the federal poverty level. Nine states do not tax personal income. (See Map 3.1.)[8]

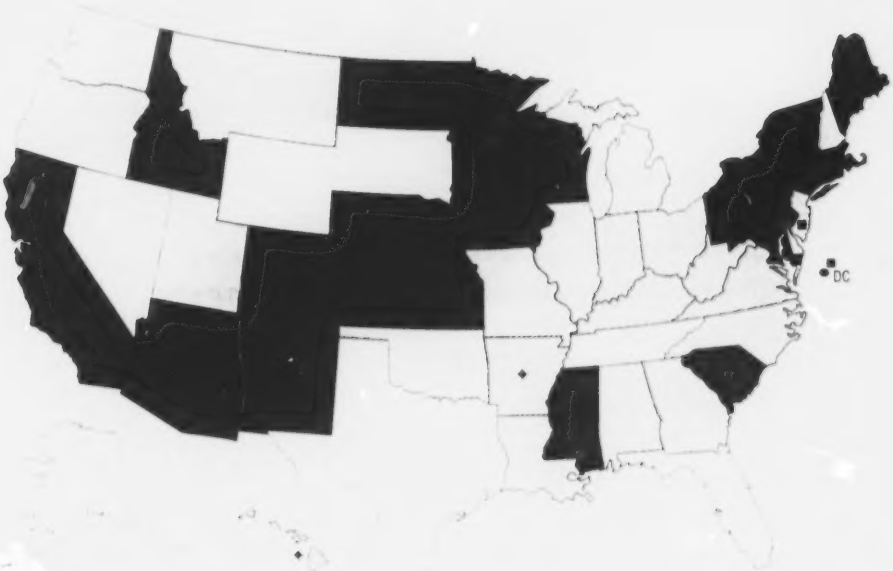
- Ten states offer refundable earned income credits, ranging from 10 to 34 percent of the federal credit.[9, 10] Eight states offer refundable dependent care tax credits, with maximum benefits for a family with two or more dependents ranging from $288 to $1,400.[11] Only three states offer both types of credits, and 36 states do not offer either. (See Map 3.1.)

- Eleven states have a minimum hourly wage that exceeds the federal minimum, ranging from $5.25 to $6.50 per hour.[12] Even the highest minimum wage, however, is not enough to provide full-time earnings that bring a family of three with one wage earner above the poverty level without refundable earned income credits or other wage supplements.

- Maximum TANF benefits for a single-parent family of three with no earnings range from $1,968 a year in Alabama to $8,076 in Wisconsin and $11,076 in Alaska. As a percentage of state median income, maximum TANF benefits for a single-parent

* See endnotes for dates of data collection and data sources. See Appendix C, Tables 1 and 2, for data across all the states, as well as the individual state profiles.

Map 3.1
State Income Tax Thresholds and Refundable Tax Credits



State does not tax personal income [9]

State's income tax threshold is below the federal poverty level for a family of three [20]

State's income tax threshold is above the federal poverty level for a family of three [22]

■ State offers a refundable earned income credit [10]

◆ State offers a refundable dependent care credit [8]

No state personal income tax [9]	State income tax threshold below poverty level [20]	State income tax threshold above poverty level [22]
Alaska	Alabama	Arizona
Florida	Arkansas (◆)	California
Nevada	Delaware	Colorado (■ ◆)
New Hampshire	Georgia	Connecticut
South Dakota	Hawaii (◆)	District of Columbia (■)
Tennessee	Illinois	Idaho
Texas	Indiana	Iowa (◆)
Washington	Kentucky	Kansas (■)
Wyoming	Louisiana	Maine
	Michigan	Maryland (■)
	Missouri	Massachusetts (■)
	Montana	Minnesota (■ ◆)
	New Jersey (■)	Mississippi
	North Carolina	Nebraska (◆)
	Ohio	New Mexico (◆)
	Oklahoma	New York (■ ◆)
	Oregon	North Dakota
	Utah	Pennsylvania
	Virginia	Rhode Island
	West Virginia	South Carolina
		Vermont (■)
		Wisconsin (■)

Sources

Income tax threshold: Johnson, N., Zahradnik, R., & McNichol, E. C. (2000). *State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from tax year 1999.

Refundable earned income tax credit: Johnson, N. (2000). *A hand up: How state earned income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from November 2000.

Refundable dependent care tax credit: Steinschneider, J., Donahue, E. H., Campbell, N. D., & Williams, V. L. (1998). *Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center; with updates from National Women's Law Center. (2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions: Tax year 2000 [unpublished table]. Data are from December 1999.

family of three with no earnings range from 5.8 percent to 23.9 percent. Even in the most generous states, annual TANF benefits are well below the federal poverty level; in 15 states, annual TANF benefits are below 50 percent of the federal poverty level.[13]

State Efforts to Provide Basic Supports

Ensuring that children's basic needs are met can be a difficult task for poor and low-income families with limited resources. Supports such as child care assistance, health insurance, and food and nutrition benefits help promote family economic security by reducing expenses and increasing disposable income. They can also support parental employment, reduce parental stress, and enhance young children's growth and development.

To examine state efforts to provide basic supports, this report looks at indicators of how states have implemented several federal programs: the Child Care and Development Fund; Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program; food stamps; and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Child Care Assistance

The majority of low-income young children in the United States have parents who are employed at least part-time. Helping low-income families afford high-quality child care is key both to supporting parental employment and to promoting positive child development. One of states' primary tools for addressing the child care needs of low-income working families is the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a block grant that supports state-designed child care subsidy programs.

State Policy Choices

To examine state choices about child care subsidies funded through CCDF, this report looks at indicators in four areas.[14]

- **CCDF subsidy coverage.** States are free to set their own eligibility levels for child care subsidies as long as they do not exceed the federal maximum of 85 percent of the state median income. Eligibility levels across the states range from about $17,000 in maximum annual income to more than $40,000. States also vary considerably in the percentage of eligible children who actually receive benefits. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services compares coverage rates across the states by estimating the number of potentially eligible children—those who *would be eligible* if each state adopted the maximum eligibility level allowed under federal guidelines—and comparing this figure to the number of children actually served.

- **Subsidy purchasing power.** Ideally, child care subsidies should enable low-income families to purchase quality child care. If states are to ensure adequate purchasing power for CCDF subsidies, they must offer a payment rate that local

providers will accept. Federal guidelines recommend that states' rates for providers be set at a level not lower than the 75th percentile of the local market rate based on the results of a recent market rate survey. This should ensure that rates are high enough to encompass at least 75 percent of the local child care providers or slots.

- **Subsidy co-payment burden.** States typically require families that receive subsidies to make co-payments to their child care provider, with rates set on a sliding scale by family income. For subsidies to be useful to low-income families, states must set co-payment rates that are affordable. Federal guidelines recommend that rates not exceed 10 percent of a family's income.[15]

- **State spending on child care through TANF transfers.** Federal TANF regulations allow states to expand their child care subsidy resources by transferring TANF funds into CCDF.

*Findings**

- The percentage of potentially eligible children served by CCDF programs varies widely across the states, with 3 percent being served in the District of Columbia, 5 percent in Connecticut, and 25 percent in West Virginia. Nationally, approximately 12 percent of potentially eligible children are served. Note that child care subsidies funded directly by TANF and by some state funds are not included in these data.[16]

- Twenty-one states follow the recommended federal guideline regarding subsidy purchasing power. In the remaining 30 states, rates are set below the 75th percentile of the local market rate, are based on an outdated market rate survey,[17] or both. (See Table 3.1.)[18]

- Thirty-two states follow the recommended federal guideline regarding subsidy co-payment burden for a single-parent family of three at 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Of the remaining states, nine require a co-payment that exceeds 10 percent of such a family's income, and nine have set their CCDF income eligibility level too low for such a family to participate in the program (see Table 3.1).[19] As a result, a single-parent family of three at 150 percent of the poverty level in California makes no co-payment, while a similar family in South Dakota must contribute $500 per month—or 29 percent of their income—and a similar family in Missouri is not eligible for CCDF subsidies at all.[20]

- Forty-one states transfer federal TANF funds into their CCDF subsidy programs.[21]

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* See endnotes for dates of data collection and data sources. See Appendix C, Table 3, for data across all the states, as well as the individual state profiles.

Table 3.1

State Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Programs: Subsidy Coverage Rates and Adherence to Recommended Federal Guidelines

	Follows both recommended federal guidelines[1, 2]	Follows subsidy purchasing power guideline[1] ONLY	Follows subsidy co-payment burden guideline[2] ONLY	Does not follow either recommended federal guideline
Subsidy coverage rate above national average	Alaska California Illinois[3] Louisiana Maine New Mexico Vermont		Massachusetts Michigan North Carolina Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island Tennessee Washington	Arizona Kentucky Missouri New York[4] West Virginia
Subsidy coverage rate at or below national average	Florida Minnesota Nebraska Ohio South Carolina Texas Virginia	Arkansas Idaho Maryland Montana Nevada Utah Wisconsin	Colorado Connecticut District of Columbia Georgia Hawaii Indiana Kansas Mississippi New Hampshire New Jersey	Alabama Delaware Iowa North Dakota Oregon South Dakota Wyoming

[1] *Subsidy purchasing power*: Federal CCDF guidelines recommend that to ensure adequate subsidy purchasing power, provider payment rates be set at a level not lower than the 75th percentile of the local market rate, based on the results of a recent market rate survey. A market rate survey was considered recent if it was conducted in 1997 or later.

[2] *Subsidy co-payment burden*: Federal CCDF guidelines recommend that co-payment rates do not exceed 10 percent of a family's income. Subsidy co-payment burden has been assessed by comparing the co-payment required of a single-parent family of three at 150 percent of the federal poverty level to that family's income. In this table, a state that sets its CCDF income eligibility guideline too low for such a family to participate in the program is treated as having failed to follow the recommended federal guideline for co-payment burden.

[3] Illinois has three regional subsidy rates; given variation in child care prices among counties, subsidy rates may be above or below the 75th percentile in a particular county.

[4] In New York, co-payment rates vary significantly by county, ranging from 3 percent to 11 percent of family income.

Sources:

Subsidy coverage rates: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in fiscal year 1999 (average monthly). <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/cctable.htm> Data are from fiscal year 1999. This table updates Table 1 in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (1999). *Access to child care for low-income working families*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Federal CCDF guidelines: Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). *State developments in child care and early education 1999*. Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund. Data are from June 1999.

Box 3.1
Findings from the National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families

The major source of funding for child care subsidies to support working families is the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). It was established as part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in 1996 and included significantly more federal funding for child care subsidies than was available under previous legislation. An interim report of the National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families describes how 17 states used CCDF and other resources to meet the child care needs of low-income families in fiscal years 1997 through 1999. The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by Abt Associates and NCCP. Major findings from the report include the following:

- **Spending by most states grew dramatically between 1997 and 1999; the median increase in spending for the 16 states providing financial information was 78 percent.** Funds came from the federal CCDF allocation, TANF funding, and other sources. In 1997, only three of the 16 states used TANF funding for child care, while all 16 states did in 1999.
- **As a result of the increased spending (from all available sources), states were able to serve many more children.** Twelve of the 15 states reporting usage data experienced more than a 30 percent growth in the number of children receiving subsidies.
- **Despite the large increase in the number of children served, the vast majority of children who were potentially eligible for subsidies did not receive them.** On average, the states in the study served only 15 to 20 percent of children who would be eligible for subsidies if states adopted the maximum federal CCDF eligibility guideline, and no state served more than 25 percent. States were able to meet fully the demand for child care subsidies from families receiving TANF; unmet demand came from families who did not receive TANF.
- **In the initial years, the tremendous growth in funding and subsidy use strained many states' administrative capacity and systems.** In most of the states, many of these issues were being resolved in the spring and summer of 1999.

Source

Abt Associates, Inc. & National Center for Children in Poverty. (2000). *National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families: State and Community Substudy interim report*. Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The executive summary as well as the full interim report are available on the Abt Associates' Web site: http://www.abtassoc.com/reports/childdevelopment-download.html. Additional information about child care is available at the NCCP Web site: http://www.nccp.org.

Health Insurance

Low-wage and many types of part-time employment typically do not provide health insurance benefits. Because of the high cost of private insurance, most low-income families are unable to afford insurance on their own. Thus, a low-income family's ability to access health insurance generally depends on the availability of benefits through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

States make several types of choices that determine the accessibility of health insurance. Eligibility levels determine which families can *potentially* receive benefits. The kinds of outreach and enrollment strategies states implement, and how aggressively they do so, determine the extent to which eligible families are *actually enrolled*. This report examines eligibility levels for young children and parents as well as several outreach and enrollment strategies. Due to data limitations, however, Medicaid and CHIP enrollment data for young children are not provided.[22] Without such data, eligibility levels may be misleading.

State Policy Choices

This report examines state Medicaid and CHIP eligibility levels for children under age six (looking at infants separately) and Medicaid eligibility levels for parents.

- **Medicaid/CHIP eligibility levels for children under age six.** Federal law requires states to set Medicaid income eligibility levels for children under age six no lower than 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Passed in 1997, the CHIP legislation offers states incentives to expand health insurance coverage for children up to 200 percent of the poverty level or higher in states that had already expanded Medicaid coverage to children above 150 percent of the poverty level; such states were allowed to set their CHIP eligibility level up to 50 percentage points above their June 1997 Medicaid eligibility level. States can use CHIP funds either to expand their Medicaid program for children or to create a separate child health insurance program.

- **Medicaid eligibility levels for parents.** States have wide discretion in setting income eligibility limits for parents under Medicaid; CHIP covers only children under age 19.

Eligibility levels for Medicaid and CHIP are only one indicator of states' efforts to expand health insurance coverage, as many eligible children and adults are not enrolled. Procedures for initial enrollment and recertification may limit enrollment if they are difficult and time-consuming; thus, states' efforts to streamline these processes give some indication of their commitment to ensuring maximum enrollment. Four strategies are being used across the states:[23]

- **Presumptive eligibility.** Immediate enrollment of children who appear to meet the Medicaid income guidelines—pending formal eligibility determination—can help children get routine care and needed medical treatment without delay. Under the presumptive eligibility option, certain health care providers, Head Start centers, and agencies and organizations (such as child care resource and referral networks) that determine eligibility for subsidized child care can make temporary eligibility determinations for Medicaid or CHIP based on the family's declaration that its income is below the state's income eligibility guidelines. No verification of income is needed at the time the presumptive eligibility determination is made, and the child's family has until the end of the following month to submit a full application.

- **12-month continuous eligibility.** This strategy, which allows children to remain enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP for a full year regardless of fluctuations in family income, can minimize disruptions in health coverage that may result when more frequent recertification is required.

- **No assets test.** Eliminating the assets test used to determine eligibility simplifies the application process and minimizes the verification burden.

- **Self-declaration of income.** Allowing applicants to declare their income rather than requiring extensive documentation also simplifies the application process and minimizes the verification burden.

*Findings**

- Twenty states set the Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for children under age six at 200 percent of the federal poverty level,[24] and 13 states set the level higher. (Where a state has implemented a separate CHIP program with an eligibility limit that differs from Medicaid, the higher of the two limits is considered.) (See Map 3.2.)[25]

- Only two states—the District of Columbia and Minnesota—set the Medicaid income eligibility level for a parent in a single-parent family of three at or above 200 percent of the poverty level. These are also the only two states that set similar eligibility levels for children and their parents. Only 10 states set the income eligibility level for parents at or above the poverty level (see Map 3.2). In 18 states, parents have to be below 50 percent of the federal poverty level to be eligible for Medicaid. The lowest limits in the country—22 percent of the federal poverty level—are in Alabama and Arkansas.[26]

- Only six states allow presumptive eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP; one state allows presumptive eligibility for Medicaid, but not CHIP.[27]

- Thirteen states allow 12-month continuous eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP. Two states allow 12-month continuous eligibility for Medicaid but not CHIP, and 10 states allow it for CHIP but not Medicaid.[28]

- Forty-one states do not have assets tests for Medicaid and CHIP; an additional six states have no assets test for CHIP but require it for Medicaid enrollment.[29]

- Seven states allow self-declaration of income for Medicaid and CHIP enrollment, and two additional states allow self-declaration of income for CHIP, but not Medicaid.[30]

Food and Nutrition Assistance

Because many families do not have sufficient financial resources to provide for their basic needs, in-kind benefits provided through the Food Stamp Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) can help ensure that young children do not go hungry.

State Policy Choices

- **Food stamp coverage for young children.** Food stamp eligibility is set at the

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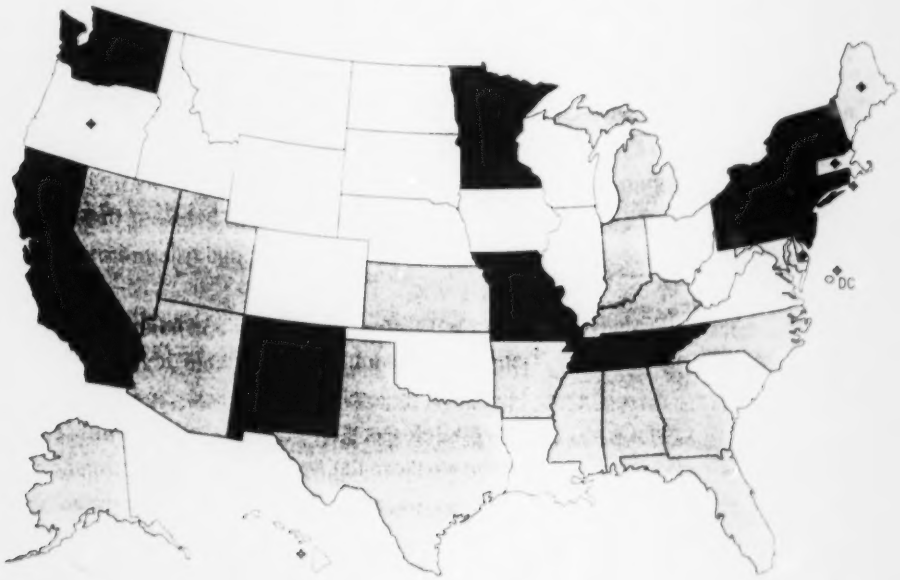
* See endnotes for dates of data collection and data sources. See Appendix C, Tables 4 and 5, for data across all the states, as well as the individual state profiles.

Map 3.2

State Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Income Eligibility Levels for Young Children and Parents



Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for children under age 6 below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) [18]

Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for children under age 6 at 200 percent of FPL [20]

Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for children under age 6 above 200 percent of FPL [13]

◆ Medicaid eligibility level for parents at or above 100 percent of FPL [10]

Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for young children below 200% FPL [18]	**Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for young children at 200% FPL [20]**	**Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for young children above 200% FPL [13]**
Colorado	Alabama	California
Hawaii (◆)	Alaska	Connecticut
Idaho	Arizona	Minnesota (◆)
Illinois*	Arkansas	Missouri (◆)
Iowa	Delaware (◆)	New Hampshire
Louisiana	District of Columbia (◆)	New Jersey
Montana	Florida	New Mexico
Nebraska	Georgia	New York
North Dakota	Indiana	Pennsylvania
Ohio	Kansas	Rhode Island (◆)
Oklahoma	Kentucky	Tennessee
Oregon (◆)	Maine (◆)	Vermont (◆)
South Carolina	Maryland	Washington
South Dakota	Massachusetts (◆)	
Virginia	Michigan	
West Virginia	Mississippi	
Wisconsin	Nevada	
Wyoming	North Carolina	
	Texas	
	Utah	

* Medicaid/CHIP eligibility level for children birth to age 1: 200% FPL; children ages 1 to 6: 185% FPL

Sources

Eligibility level for young children: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2000). State income eligibility guidelines for children's Medicaid and separate child health insurance programs [table]. <http://www.cbpp.org/shsh/elig.htm> Data are from April 2000.

Eligibility level for parents: Guyer, J. & Mann, C. (1999). *Employed but not insured: A state-by-state analysis of the number of low-income working parents who lack health insurance*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from February 1999.

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federal level—a family must have a gross income of less than 130 percent of the federal poverty level and a net income below the poverty level to qualify[31]—and all eligible persons are entitled to receive benefits. Nonetheless, state choices about food stamp implementation influence coverage levels. In the absence of recent data on the percent of eligible children covered in each state, this report uses the following proxy: the number of children under age five living below 130 percent of the federal poverty level[32] is estimated and then compared to the number of children under age five receiving food stamps, using enrollment data from fiscal year 1998.[33]

- **State supplements to WIC.** The federal WIC program provides food assistance to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and to infants and children who are found to be at nutritional risk. Some states supplement their federal WIC allocations with state funds.

Findings*

- In six states—Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and West Virginia—the number of children under age five enrolled in the Food Stamp Program constitutes 75 percent or more of the estimated number of eligible children.[34]

- Eleven states supplement the federal WIC program.[35]

Overall Patterns in State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Altogether, these data demonstrate a striking amount of variability across the states. Within a single state, the benefits examined here are often not uniform—a single state may be generous on some indicators, stingy on others, and somewhere in between on the rest. The variability from state to state is also immense, especially when the indicators are examined as a whole. Despite this variability, some patterns are evident, especially among efforts to increase family income.

An Overall Look at Efforts to Increase Family Income

When the five indicators of state efforts to increase family income are examined—state income tax thresholds, refundable earned income credits, dependent care tax credits, state minimum wage levels, and generosity of TANF benefits— a positive relationship emerges: states that are more generous in one area tend to be more generous in others.

Examples of states with the most generous wage and income supports:

- Massachusetts and Vermont have an income tax threshold above the poverty level for a single-parent family of three and offer refundable earned income credits for low-

* See Appendix C, Table 4, for data across all the states, as well as the individual state profiles.

income families. Both states have adopted a minimum wage that exceeds the federal standard, and each ranks among the top 10 states in maximum TANF benefits for a single-parent family of three with no earnings.

- New York and Wisconsin also exempt poverty-level families from state income taxes, offer refundable earned income credits (New York offers a refundable dependent care credit as well), and rank among the top 10 states in maximum TANF benefits, though they have not raised the minimum wage.

Examples of states with the least generous wage and income supports:

- Alabama has the lowest tax threshold in the country, does not offer any income tax credits (refundable or nonrefundable), has not raised the minimum wage, and offers the lowest maximum TANF benefits of any state in the nation.

- Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and North Carolina also have tax thresholds below the poverty level, fail to offer any refundable tax credits, and rank in the bottom 10 states in terms of TANF benefits. None of these states has a minimum wage above the federal standard.

An Overall Look at State Implementation of Federal Child Care and Health Benefits

Patterns are less evident across the child care subsidy indicators and across the health insurance indicators. Looking at child care subsidy coverage rates, subsidy purchasing power, and family co-payment burdens, there is little consistency within states, suggesting that states often make trade-offs among components of CCDF implementation. Similarly, there appears to be little overall relationship between Medicaid/CHIP eligibility levels for young children and for parents, although a handful of states do fall among the highest or lowest for both.

Evidence of trade-offs among child care subsidy policy choices:

- Fourteen states follow recommended federal guidelines regarding subsidy purchasing power as well as family co-payment burden for a single-parent family of three at 150 percent of the poverty level: Alaska, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia. Seven of these states also have subsidy coverage rates that exceed the national average, while seven have coverage rates below the national average.

- Five states do not follow recommended federal guidelines on either count: Arizona, Delaware, North Dakota, Oregon, and South Dakota.[46] Of these states, one has a subsidy coverage rate above the national average, two at the national average, and two below the national average.

Examples of states with the highest or lowest health insurance eligibility levels for both young children and parents:

- Minnesota, Missouri, Rhode Island, and Vermont have the most generous eligibility levels, with limits for young children that are above 200 percent of the poverty level and limits for parents that are at or above the poverty level.

- Louisiana, Virginia, and West Virginia have the least generous eligibility levels, with limits for young children that are below 200 percent of the poverty level and limits for parents that are at or below one-third of the poverty level.

A Trio of Supports for Family Economic Security: Income Tax Policies, Child Care Subsidies, and Health Insurance

Although all of the supports for low-income families examined in this chapter have implications for family economic security, the trio of state supports—income tax policies, child care subsidies, and health insurance benefits—are arguably the most important for the largest numbers of low-income working families. Other supports, such as TANF benefits and food stamps, are available only to the poorest families. Given the limitations of indicators for these three major supports for low-income families—most notably the lack of data on Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and the fact that some of the data do not reflect recent policy changes—findings about this trio of supports across the states are suggestive at best. Nonetheless, they indicate that some states are giving considerable attention to efforts to promote family economic security, while others are doing little. States with the strongest efforts to promote family economic security *relative to other states* are highlighted below. Note that none of these states is among the highest on all the family economic security indicators examined.

California has the highest income tax threshold in the country, but does not offer any refundable income credits. Its CCDF program follows the recommended federal guidelines regarding both subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden and exceeds the national average in terms of subsidy coverage. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for young children is 250 percent of the poverty level, though its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is below poverty.

Massachusetts has an income tax threshold that is well above the poverty level and offers a refundable earned income credit, though it offers no refundable dependent care credit. Its CCDF program fails to follow the recommended federal guideline regarding subsidy purchasing power, but follows the guideline on family co-payment burden and exceeds the national average in terms of subsidy coverage. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for young children is 200 percent of the poverty level, and its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is 133 percent of poverty.

Minnesota's income tax threshold is the second highest in the country, and the state offers refundable earned income and dependent care credits that are among the most generous in the country. Its CCDF program follows the recommended federal guidelines regarding both subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden, but its subsidy coverage rate is below the national average. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income

eligibility level for young children is 275 percent of the poverty level (or 280 percent for children under age two), and its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is 275 percent of poverty—by far the highest level for parents in the country.

New Mexico has an income tax threshold that is above the poverty level, and the state offers a refundable dependent care credit, though no refundable earned income credit. Its CCDF program follows the recommended federal guidelines regarding both subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden and exceeds the national average in terms of subsidy coverage. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for young children is 235 percent of the poverty level, though its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is below poverty.

New York has an income tax threshold that is well above the poverty level, and the state offers among the most generous refundable earned income and dependent care credits in the country. Its CCDF program fails to follow the recommended federal guideline for subsidy purchasing power and only follows the guideline regarding family co-payment burden in some counties, but the program exceeds the national average in terms of subsidy coverage. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for young children is 230 percent of the poverty level, though its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is below poverty.

Rhode Island has an income tax threshold that is well above the poverty level, but the state does not offer any refundable income tax credits. Its CCDF program follows the recommended federal guideline regarding family co-payment burden and exceeds the national average in terms of subsidy coverage, but the program fails to follow the recommended federal guideline regarding subsidy purchasing power. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for young children is 250 percent of the poverty level, and its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is close to 200 percent of poverty.

Vermont has an income tax threshold that is well above the poverty level, and the state offers a generous refundable earned income credit, but does not offer a refundable dependent care credit. Its CCDF program follows the recommended federal guidelines regarding both subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden and exceeds the national average in terms of subsidy coverage. The state's Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for young children is 300 percent of the poverty level, and its Medicaid eligibility level for parents is 158 percent of poverty.

Endnotes

1. Note that depending on family size and number of wage earners, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, if claimed, can bring a family supported by minimum wage income above the poverty level.

2. U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). *Poverty in the United States* (Current Population Reports No. P60-210). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, Table 2: Age, Sex, Household Relationship, Race, and Hispanic Origin by Ratio of Income to Poverty Threshold: 1999.

3. NCCP analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics*.

4. See Johnson, N.; Zahradnik, R.; & McNichol, E. C. (2000). *State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, p. 4.

5. Bernstein, J. & Brocht, C. (2000). *The next step: The new minimum wage proposals and the old opposition* (Issue Brief No. 130B). Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.

6. The threshold calculations include earned income credits, other general tax credits, exemptions, and standard deductions. Credits that are intended to offset the effects of taxes other than the income tax or that are not available to all low-income families are not taken into account.

7. Data are from tax year 1999. See Johnson, Zahradnik, & McNichol in endnote 4, p. 13, Table 1A: State Income Tax Thresholds for Single-Parent Families of Three, 1999.

8. *Ibid.*

9. Wisconsin offers a refundable earned income credit whose value—as a percentage of the federal credit—varies depending on the number of children (one child, 4 percent; two children, 14 percent; three or more children, 43 percent).

Indiana offers a refundable credit that is called an Earned Income Tax Credit. However, this credit differs substantially from the federal EITC and other state earned income credits in its income eligibility rules and benefit structure. It is only available to families with incomes below $12,000, and the amount of the credit declines rather than increases as earnings increase.

10. Data are from November 2000. See Johnson, N. (2000). ***A hand up: How state earned income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition.*** Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, p. 18, Table 4: State Earned Income Tax Credits Based on the Federal EITC, Tax Year 2000.

11. Data are from December 1999. See Steinschneider, J.; Donahue, E. H.; Campbell, N. D.; & Williams, V. L. (1998). ***Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions.*** Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, pp. 27–32, Appendix: State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits: Tax Year 1997; with updates from National Women's Law Center. (2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions: tax year 2000 [unpublished table].

12. Data are from August 2000. See U.S. Department of Labor. (2000). Minimum wage laws in the states, Table: Minimum Wage and Overtime Premium Pay Standards Applicable to Nonsupervisory NONFARM Private Sector Employment Under State and Federal Laws, August 1, 2000. <http:www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/minwage/america.htm>

13. Data are from June 2000. Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance benefits are multiplied by 12 to obtain an annual figure. In states where welfare benefits vary by region or for different categories of recipients, the benefit level used is the one that applies to the largest number of TANF recipients in the state.

See State Policy Documentation Project. (2000). TANF cash assistance: Categorical and financial eligibility rules. Table: Monthly Cash Assistance and Food Stamp Benefits for Single-Parent Family of Three with No Earnings, 2000. <http://www.spdp.org/tanf/financial/MAXBEN2000.PDF>

14. For more information about CCDF programs, see Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). ***State developments in child care and early education, 1999.*** Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund. See also Collins, A.; Layzer, J. I.; Kreader, J. L.; Werner, A.; & Glantz, F. B. (2000). ***National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families: State and Community Substudy interim report.*** Boston, MA: Abt Associates, Inc. and New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

15. Note that co-payments do not include additional amounts that families may be asked to pay by providers whose rates exceed state payment rates.

16. Data are from fiscal year 1999. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in fiscal year 1999 (average monthly). <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/cctable.htm>. This table updates Table 1: Estimates of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Eligibility and Receipt: Children (Average Monthly Estimate) in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (1999). ***Access to child care for low-income working families.*** Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

17. In this report, we have defined an outdated survey as a survey conducted before 1997.

18. Data are from June 1999. See Blank & Poersch in endnote 14, pp. 34–35, Table 3: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: State Child Care Reimbursement Rates.

19. New York is not included in this analysis due to significant variations in rates by county. Co-payments range from 3 percent to 11 percent of family income.

20. Data are from June 1999. See Blank & Poersch in endnote 14, pp. 26–27, Table 2: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: Co-payments for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of FPL.

21. Data are from fiscal year 1999. See U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Financial Services. (2000). TANF program expenditures in FY 1999 through the 4th quarter. Table D: Percentages of Transfer Amounts to CCDF and SSBG for FYs 1997, 1998 and 1999. <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/q499/table-d.htm>

22. Separate data are available on Medicaid enrollment for young children and CHIP enrollment for children under age 19, but due to differences in recipient age ranges and in dates of data collection, these data can not be combined to produce total enrollment figures.

23. For more information about these strategies, see the following publications released by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, DC: Cox, L. & Ross, D. C. (2000). *Medicaid for children and CHIP income eligibility guidelines and enrollment procedures: Findings from a 50-state survey, preliminary report;* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (1999). *Steps states can take to facilitate Medicaid enrollment of children.* <http://www.cbpp.org/12-6-99health.htm>; Ross, D. C. (1999). *How early childhood programs can link children to free and low-cost health insurance programs.* <http://www.cbpp.org/6-10-98med.htm>; Ross, D. C. (1999). *How health care providers can help link children to free and low cost health insurance programs.* <http://www.cbpp.org/6-17-98med.htm>

24. In addition to these 20 states, Illinois sets the Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility level for infants under age one at 200 percent of the poverty level, but it sets the eligibility level for children ages one to six at 185 percent.

25. Data are from April 2000. See Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2000). State income eligibility guidelines for children's Medicaid and separate child health insurance programs [table]. <http://www.cbpp.org/shsh/elig.htm>

26. Data are from February 1999. See Guyer, J. & Mann, C. (1999). *Employed but not insured: A state-by-state analysis of the number of low-income working parents who lack health insurance.* Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, p. 11, Table 3: How Much Can a Working Parent Who is Applying for Medicaid Earn and Still Be Eligible for Coverage?

27. Data are from March 2000. See Cox and Ross in endnote 23.

28. *Ibid.*

29. *Ibid.*

30. *Ibid.*

31. Households must meet these income tests *unless* all members are receiving benefits through TANF, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or, in some places, general assistance. In these cases, a household is deemed categorically eligible (automatically qualified) for food stamps.

32. This estimate is based on NCCP analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from 1994, 1996, and 1998. Note that this figure takes into account only the gross income requirement for food stamp qualification; it does not take into account the net income requirement or categorical eligibility (described above).

33. See U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2000). *Characteristics of food stamp households: Fiscal year 1998.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, p. 80, Appendix B, Table B-10, Distribution of Participants by Age and by State.

34. Enrollment data are from fiscal year 1998. See endnote 33.

35. Data are from fiscal year 2000. See U.S. Department of Agriculture, Supplemental Food Programs Division. (2000). WIC program: State appropriations—fiscal year 2000 [unpublished table].

36. There are also seven states (in addition to these five) that fail to follow the subsidy purchasing power guideline and were not counted as following the co-payment burden guideline (see Table 3.1). Six of these states set the income eligibility level for CCDF subsidies too low to assess family co-payment burden (i.e., the burden was assessed for a single-parent family of three at 150 percent of the poverty level, and these six states set the income eligibility level below 150 percent of poverty). The seventh, New York, follows the family co-payment burden guideline in some counties, but does not follow it in others.

CHAPTER 4

Putting the Pieces Together: State Efforts to Improve the Well-Being of Young Children

The Findings in Brief

Map and Track 2000 examines two major types of state efforts to improve the well-being of children under age six and their families—child development and family support efforts, including both programs and early childhood systems development, and efforts to promote family economic security. Overall, the report finds significant growth in state efforts to promote child development and family support in comparison to the findings reported in *Map and Track 1998*. But differences among states, noted in the first edition of *Map and Track*, are still evident. When state child development and family support efforts are combined with state efforts to promote family economic security, the variation is all the more striking, making it clear that children's chances of having their needs met depend on the state in which they live.

State Efforts to Promote Child Development and Family Support Have Grown Significantly Since *Map and Track 1998*[1]

States have clearly gotten the message about the importance of investing in children's early development. Overall, states are investing more in child development and family support programs, both for infants and toddlers, and for preschoolers. They are also making more deliberate efforts to support programs and services through systems development strategies. Specific findings include:

1. **Total state spending for child development and family support efforts has increased by almost 90 percent since *Map and Track 1998*.**

   - States invested a total of over $3.7 billion in child development and family support programs and early childhood systems development efforts in fiscal year 2000, an increase of 87 percent.

2. **States are investing more in infants and toddlers.**

   - Thirty-one states now fund one or more child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers, including seven states that did not report such programs in *Map and Track 1998*. (See Map 2.1.)

- Spending for child development and family support programs targeting infants and toddlers has more than doubled: In fiscal year 2000, states spent a total of $226 million on child development and family support programs for children under age three, in comparison to $108 million reported in *Map and Track 1998*.[2]

- However, spending for infants and toddlers represents only 8 percent of total program spending for child development and family support.

3. **State investments in prekindergarten continue to grow.**

   - Forty-three states now fund prekindergarten, either by supplementing the federal Head Start program, providing their own prekindergarten programs, or both.[3] (See Table 2.1.)

   - Three states have added prekindergarten programs since *Map and Track 1998*, and seven states have added Head Start supplements. Most of these states did not previously have programs for preschoolers.

   - States spent a total of $2.1 billion on programs for preschoolers (ages three to six) in fiscal year 2000—a 24 percent increase over what was reported in *Map and Track 1998*. This spending figure includes child development and family support programs that specifically target preschoolers—the vast majority of which are prekindergarten programs—but does not include spending for prekindergarten through flexible funds that more broadly target all young children (i.e., including infants and toddlers).

   - More than 75 percent of states' total expenditures for child development and family support programs is dedicated to programs for preschoolers.

4. **Many states are building coordinated systems of services and supports for young children and families.**

   - Thirty states report some level of early childhood systems building efforts. Although not all of these efforts focus exclusively on young children, this nonetheless represents a substantial increase over the 16 states that reported systems-level initiatives in *Map and Track 1998*.

   - Eleven states dedicate state funds for system development efforts. In some cases, this money funds services.

Children's Chances of Having Their Needs Met Depend on the State in Which They Live

From its first edition, *Map and Track* has highlighted variation among state child development and family support efforts—variation which, if anything, has grown over time. When combined with state efforts to promote family economic security, the variation

among states is all the more striking. Thus, families in some states have access to considerably more resources—whether higher wages, lower taxes, more generous child care and health care benefits, or early childhood programs and services—to help them improve outcomes for their young children as compared to families in other states. Specific findings include:

1. **Gains in child development and family support efforts have been uneven.**

   - Although nearly two-thirds of states now fund at least one program targeting infants and toddlers and one for preschoolers, five states fund no child development and family support programs for young children and families. (See Table 4.1.)

   - Thirty-three states increased spending for child development and family support programs and initiatives by 10 percent or more since *Map and Track 1998*. But five states had increases of less than 10 percent, 10 states had no change in funding levels, and two states reported overall decreases in spending.

   - Taking into account each state's total child development and family support spending—including both programs and systems building efforts—six states invested more than $200 per child under age six,[4] while 14 states spent $20 or less (see Table 4.1). Further, states with similar young child poverty rates and similar numbers of young children are making very different levels of investment. For example, among states with young child poverty rates above the national average, child development and family support spending per young child spans the full range from $0 to more than $200. And both large and small states can be found among those investing more than $100 per young child.

2. **State efforts to promote family economic security vary widely.**

   - In 22 states, a single-parent family of three living below the poverty level is exempt from paying state income tax. Twenty states tax such families. Nine states do not tax personal income.[5] (See Table 4.2.)

   - Ten states offer refundable earned income credits, ranging from 10 to 34 percent of the federal credit.[6] Eight states offer refundable dependent care credits, with maximum benefits for a family with two or more dependents ranging from $288 to $1,400.[7] Only three states offer both types of credits, and 36 states do not offer either. (See Table 4.2.)

   - Fourteen states have implemented child care subsidy programs through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) that follow recommended federal guidelines regarding both provider payment rates and family co-payment burden, while five states do not follow either recommended federal guideline.[8] Moreover, the percentage of potentially eligible children served through CCDF programs ranges from less than 5 percent to 25 percent across the states. Nationally, the coverage rate is 12 percent.[9] (See Table 4.2.)

Table 4.1

States Funding Child Development and Family Support Efforts for Young Children, Fiscal Year 2000

State	Programs for ages			Systems development initiatives with dedicated funds	Level of funding (per child 0–6)
	0–3	3–6	0–6		
Alabama					
Alaska		x	x	x	$$$
Arizona	x	x	x		$$
Arkansas			x		$$
California	x	x	x	x	$$$$
Colorado		x	x		$$
Connecticut		x	x		$$$
Delaware		x	x		$$$
District of Columbia	x	x			$$$$
Florida	x	x	x (●)		$$$
Georgia	x	x			$$$$
Hawaii	x	x	x		$$
Idaho	x (●)	x (●)	x (●)		$
Illinois			x	x	$$$
Indiana	x				$$
Iowa	x	x		x	$$
Kansas	x	x (●)			$$
Kentucky	x (●)	x			$$$
Louisiana	x (●)	x			$
Maine	x	x			$$
Maryland	x	x	x (●)		$$
Massachusetts	x	x			$$$$
Michigan	x	x	x (●)		$$
Minnesota	x	x	x		$$$
Mississippi					
Missouri	x (●)	x (●)	x	x	$$$
Montana			x		$
Nebraska			x		$
Nevada	x	x (●)	x		$
New Hampshire	x	x			$
New Jersey		x			*
New Mexico	x	x (●)	x		$$
New York		x	x		$$
North Carolina	x	x	x	x	$$$$
North Dakota	x (●)	x (●)			$
Ohio	x	x			$$$
Oklahoma	x	x	x		$$$$
Oregon	x	x	x	x	$$$
Pennsylvania			x		$
Rhode Island	x	x	x	x	$$$
South Carolina	x (●)	x	x	x	$$$
South Dakota					
Tennessee		x	x		$
Texas		x	x		$$$
Utah					
Vermont	x	x	x		$$
Virginia		x			$$
Washington		x		x	$$
West Virginia	x (●)	x	x	x	$$
Wisconsin	x	x	x		$$$
Wyoming					

* New Jersey's funding level is not reported because the state's funding figures include a substantial amount of kindergarten spending.

(●) States that did not report programs for this age category in *Map and Track: 1998* but have since added such programs.

Dollars spent per child under age six (includes funding for programs and early childhood systems development):

$$$$ more than $200

$$$ between $100 and $200

$$ between $20 and $100 (note that no state in this category spent less than $40 per child under age 6)

$ between $0 and $20

Table 4.2
Selected State Policy Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security, 1998–2000[10]

State	State income tax policies			State CCDF programs			Medicaid/CHIP eligibility levels		
	Tax threshold at or above federal poverty level (FPL)	State offers refundable earned income credit	State offers refundable dependent care credit	Subsidy coverage rate above U.S. average (12%)	Follows federal guidelines on		For infants (0–1): at or above 200% FPL	For children (1–6): at or above 200% FPL	For parents: at or above 100% FPL
					Subsidy purchasing power	Subsidy co-payment burden			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Alabama						N/A	x	x	
Alaska	No Tax			x	x	x	x	x	
Arizona	x			x			x	x	
Arkansas			x [a]		x	N/A	x	x	
California	x			x	x [c]	x	x	x	
Colorado	x	x	x			x			
Connecticut	x					x	x	x	
Delaware							x	x	x
District of Columbia	x	x				x	x	x	x
Florida	No Tax				x	x	x	x	
Georgia						x	x	x	
Hawaii			x			x			x
Idaho	x				x	N/A			
Illinois				x	x [d]	x	x		
Indiana						x	x	x	
Iowa	x		x			N/A			
Kansas	x	x				x	x	x	
Kentucky				x		N/A	x	x	
Louisiana				x	x	x			
Maine	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Maryland	x	x			x	N/A	x	x	
Massachusetts	x	x		x		x	x	x	x
Michigan				x		x	x	x	
Minnesota	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Mississippi	x					x	x	x	
Missouri				x		N/A	x	x	x
Montana					x				
Nebraska	x		x [b]		x	x			
Nevada	No Tax				x		x	x	
New Hampshire	No Tax					x	x	x	
New Jersey		x				x	x	x	
New Mexico	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
New York	x	x	x	x		[e]	x	x	
North Carolina				x		x	x	x	
North Dakota	x								
Ohio					x	x			
Oklahoma				x		x			
Oregon									x
Pennsylvania	x			x		x	x	x	
Rhode Island	x			x		x	x	x	x
South Carolina	x				x	x			
South Dakota	No Tax								
Tennessee	No Tax			x		x	x	x	
Texas	No Tax				x	x	x	x	
Utah					x		x	x	
Vermont	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Virginia					x	x			
Washington	No Tax			x		x	x	x	
West Virginia				x		N/A			
Wisconsin	x	x			x				
Wyoming	No Tax					N/A			

N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies.

[a] Only for care of children ages 3 to 5 in an accredited, developmentally appropriate early childhood education program.

[b] For taxpayers with a federal adjusted gross income of $29,000 or less.

[c] The state rate in California is set at 1.5 standard deviations above the average market rate survey from 1997.

[d] Illinois has three regional rates; given variation among counties, rates may be above, equal to, or below the 75th percentile in a particular county.

[e] Co-payment rates vary by county.

- Twenty states set the Medicaid or CHIP income eligibility limit for children under age six at 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and 13 states set their limits higher. Only 10 states set the Medicaid income eligibility limit for parents at or above the poverty level; the rest set it below.[11] (See Table 4.2.)

3. **Only a handful of states are making significant efforts to promote both family economic security and child development and family support.**

   - No state makes significant efforts across all the family economic security indicators tracked in this report in addition to making substantial investments in child development and family support. See Box 4.1 for descriptions of four states that are making strong efforts across both these areas relative to other states.

   - At the other end of the spectrum, several states are doing little to promote family economic security and fund no child development or family support programs.

   - Most states fall somewhere in the middle. They make some efforts to promote family economic security (such as avoiding onerous co-payments for child care subsidies or providing health insurance to children in families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level) and some child development and family support investments (such as investing in a home visiting program for infants and toddlers as well as a prekindergarten program). But comprehensive approaches across economic security as well as child development and family support are rare.

Substantial Challenges Remain to Ensure the Well-Being of Young Children

Despite the growth in state investments in child development and family support, a number of challenges remain—from reducing child poverty to improving existing programs and addressing service gaps. Each of these challenges has implications for the future early childhood agenda, especially at the state level.

1. **Discussion about the importance of family economic security is largely missing from efforts to enhance the development of young children.** Although child poverty is widely acknowledged to be one of the principal threats to healthy child development and school readiness, policy efforts to help working parents achieve and maintain economic security for their families are largely disconnected from child development and family support efforts.

2. **The disparities in child development and family support efforts across the states are qualitative as well as quantitative.** Not only are states making very different levels of investment in child development and family support—with some states spending a lot and others spending little or nothing—state efforts reflect varying levels of strategic thinking. While some states have implemented systems

Box 4.1

States with Strong Investments in Family Economic Security and Child Development/Family Support Relative to Other States*

Of these states, only California has a young child poverty rate above the national average.

California

- Highest income tax threshold in the country.
- Follows recommended federal guidelines for CCDF subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden.
- Exceeds national average for CCDF subsidy coverage.
- Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility for young children is 250 percent of the federal poverty level, but Medicaid income eligibility for parents is below the poverty level.
- Funds child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers as well as preschoolers.
- New comprehensive early childhood initiative: Children and Families Act (Proposition 10), funded at $690 million.
- One of the highest levels of per capita spending on child development and family support efforts in the country.

Massachusetts

- Income tax threshold well above the federal poverty level.
- Refundable earned income credit, but no refundable dependent care credit.
- Follows recommended federal guideline for CCDF family co-payment burden but not for subsidy purchasing power.
- Exceeds national average for CCDF subsidy coverage.
- Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility for young children is 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and Medicaid income eligibility for parents is 133 percent of poverty.
- Funds child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers as well as preschoolers.
- Recent systems development efforts to assess, improve, and coordinate services for infants and toddlers.
- One of the highest levels of per capita spending on child development and family support efforts in the country.

Minnesota

- Second highest income tax threshold in the country.
- Largest refundable earned income and dependent care credits.
- Follows recommended federal guidelines for CCDF subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden, but coverage is below the national average.
- Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility for young children is 275** percent of the federal poverty level, and Medicaid income eligibility for parents is also 275 percent of poverty—the highest in the country.
- Funds child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers as well as preschoolers.
- Recent systems development efforts to improve and coordinate early care and education services to promote school readiness.

Vermont

- Income tax threshold well above the federal poverty level.
- Second largest refundable earned income credit, but no refundable dependent care credit.
- Follows recommended federal guidelines for CCDF subsidy purchasing power and family co-payment burden.
- Exceeds national average for CCDF subsidy coverage.
- Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility for young children is 300 percent of the federal poverty level—among the highest in the country—and Medicaid income eligibility for parents is 158 percent of poverty.
- Funds child development and family support programs for infants and toddlers as well as preschoolers, but per capita spending for child development and family support efforts is well below the national average.
- Ongoing systems development efforts linking state-level planning with local networks.

* Since dates of data collection range from February 1999 to October 2000, recent policy changes may not be reflected.

** Medicaid/CHIP income eligibility for children under age two is 280 percent of the federal poverty level.

development efforts that provide mechanisms for planning across services, linking state and local efforts, and identifying and tracking outcomes, other states have simply implemented isolated programs.

3. **In general, child development and family support services are not well coordinated.** Insufficient coordination exists at two levels—among services for a single age group and across the developmental span. Some states now have multiple programs providing services for a single age group (e.g., infants and toddlers), yet coordination among such programs is generally informal, if it exists at all. The same is true of state efforts to transition children between programs across the early years. Even in states with programs targeting infants and toddlers as well as programs targeting preschoolers, individual children do not necessarily receive a continuum of services. And although some states have focused on helping children make the transition to school, most state prekindergarten programs do not require providers to have a transition plan.

4. **A tension exists between the goal of universal access to child development and family support programs and the reality of limited access.** Many state informants expressed interest in moving toward universal access to child development and family support programs. But across the country, access to such programs is limited, with most serving only the families in greatest need. While many respondents expressed concern about the political vulnerability of narrowly targeted programs, there is currently insufficient political support in most states to reach the level of investment necessary to achieve the goal of universal access. Moreover, services for young children are sometimes forced to compete for resources and political attention. For example, some informants reported competition between prekindergarten services and efforts to expand subsidized child care or to implement full-day kindergarten.

5. **Convincing legislators to support investments in early childhood is challenging.** Many respondents reported having to work hard to convince state legislators to support initiatives for young children. Some lamented not having adequate data to demonstrate the worthiness of proposed programs or initiatives. Term limits complicate the issue, because state administrators and advocates must educate new legislators about the importance of investing in early childhood. All legislators—whether concerned about reelection or aspirations for higher office—may be hesitant to support programs that require significant investments but cannot demonstrate results in the short term.

Toward the Future

Although many states have worked hard, especially in recent years, to improve the well-being of young children, the challenges and disparities identified above must be addressed if *all* young children are to benefit from increased efforts to attend to their

needs. State policymakers can achieve these goals by prioritizing the well-being of young children through their policy and program choices. Promoting family economic security and enhancing child development and family support are bipartisan issues. Strong leadership has come from both major parties at the gubernatorial level, and sometimes at the legislative level. At the same time, it is clear that much work needs to be done to broaden the network of stakeholders who understand why investing in young children is in America's best interest. Elected officials change, as do state administrators. But young children's need for caring, nurturing relationships and stimulating environments does not.

Endnotes

1. *Map and Track 2000* includes the District of Columbia and counts it as a state. However, the District was not included in the program profiles for *Map and Track 1998*, so it is excluded from comparisons to the 1998 findings.

2. These figures do not include spending for programs that target older children (up to age six) that may have a specific focus on infants and toddlers.

3. Note that this includes nine states that allocate flexible funds that may be used to support prekindergarten but may support other services instead.

4. Although New Jersey's spending falls above $200 per child under age six, it is not included here because the state's funding figures include a substantial amount of kindergarten spending.

5. Data are from tax year 1999. See Johnson, N.; Zahradnik, R.; & McNichol, E. C. (2000). *State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999.* Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, p. 13, Table 1A: State Income Tax Thresholds for Single-Parent Families of Three, 1999.

6. Data are from November 2000. See Johnson, N. (2000). *A hand up: How state earned income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition.* Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, p. 18, Table 4: State Earned Income Tax Credits Based on the Federal EITC, Tax Year 2000.

7. Data are from December 1999. See Steinschneider, J.; Donahue, E. H.; Campbell, N. D.; & Williams, V. L. (1998). *Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions.* Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, pp. 27–32, Appendix: State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits: Tax Year 1997, with updates from National Women's Law Center. (2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions: Tax year 2000 [unpublished table].

8. Data are from June 1999. See Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). *State developments in child care and early education, 1999.* Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund, pp. 34–35, Table 3: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: State Child Care Reimbursement Rates, and pp. 26–27, Table 2: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: Co-payments for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of FPL.

9. Data are from fiscal year 1999. "Potentially eligible children" refers to those who would be eligible for child care subsidies if states adopted the maximum federal eligibility level. See U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in fiscal year 1999 (average monthly). <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/cctable.htm> This table updates Table 1: Estimates of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Eligibility and Receipt: Children (Average Monthly Estimate) in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (1999). *Access to child care for low-income working families.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

10. Table 4.2 sources, by column number: (1) Johnson, N.; Zahradnik, R.; & McNichol, E. C. (2000). *State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999.* Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from tax year 1999; (2) Johnson, N. (2000). *A hand up: How state earned*

income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from November 2000; (3) Steinschneider, J.; Donahue, E. H.; Campbell, N. D.; & Williams, V. L. (1998). *Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center; with updates from National Women's Law Center (2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions: Tax year 2000 [unpublished table]. Data are from December 1999; (4) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in Fiscal Year 1999 (average monthly) <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/cctable.htm> Data are from fiscal year 1999. This table updates the information reported in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (1999). Access to child care for low-income working families. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; (5) Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). *State developments in child care and early education, 1999*. Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund. Data are from June 1999; (6) Ibid; (7) Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2000). State income eligibility guidelines for children's Medicaid and separate child health insurance programs [table]. <http://www.cbpp.org/shsh/elig.htm> Data are from April 2000; (8) Ibid; (9) Guyer, J. & Mann, C. (1999). *Employed but not insured: A state-by-state analysis of the number of low-income working parents who lack health insurance*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from February 1999.

11. Data are from April 2000. See source (7) Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in endnote 10.

Section II

STATE PROFILES

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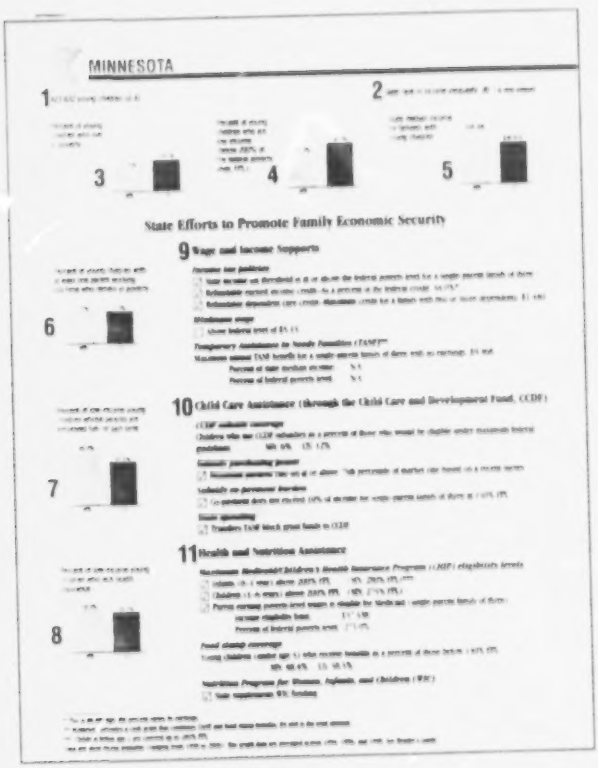
Reader's Guide to the State Profiles

The state profiles highlight efforts in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (which is treated as a state for simplicity) to promote family economic security and to support child development and family support services. This guide provides information about the data, data sources, and dates of data collection. Some of the data were gathered and analyzed by NCCP; other data were drawn from secondary sources, as noted below.

- *General note about references to poverty levels:*
  There are two official measures of the federal poverty level (FPL): poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines. Poverty thresholds are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each fall by the U.S. Census Bureau and are used mainly for statistical purposes—for instance, preparing estimates of the number of Americans in poverty. The poverty guidelines are issued each winter by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The guidelines simplify the poverty thresholds so they can be used for administrative purposes—for instance, to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs. The explanations of indicators below note which measure was used where applicable.
- *General note about data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, March Current Population Surveys:*
  Given the small sample sizes in less-populated states, NCCP averaged three years of data: 1994, 1996, and 1998. Three out of five years were selected to avoid any duplication of cases, since many respondents are interviewed for two years in a row. See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for more information.

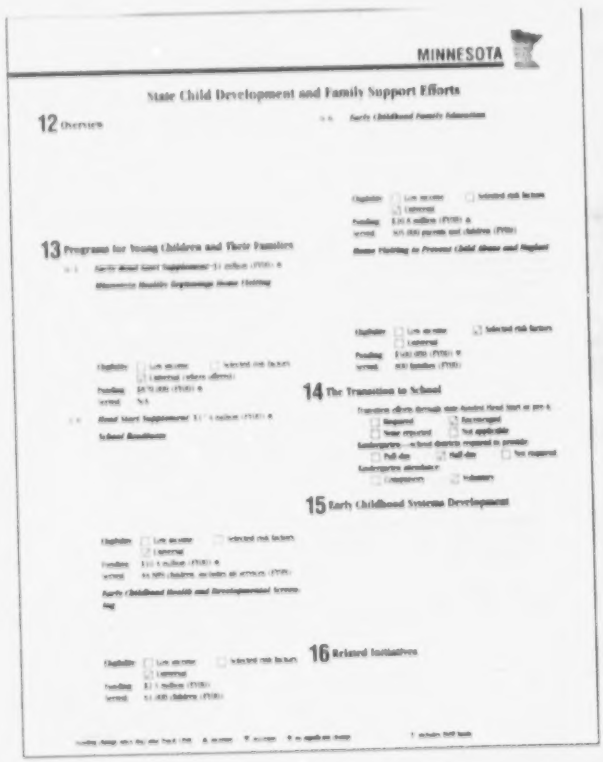

MINNESOTA

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

9 Wage and Income Supports

10 Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

11 Health and Nutrition Assistance


MINNESOTA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

12 Overview

13 Programs for Young Children and Their Families

14 The Transition to School

15 Early Childhood Systems Development

16 Related Initiatives

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1 Number of young children (0–6)

Explanation of indicator: Estimate of the number of children under age 6 in the state, derived from averaging three years of data: 1994, 1996, and 1998.

Source: NCCP analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, March Current Population Surveys.

Dates of data: 1994, 1996, and 1998

2 State rank in income inequality

Explanation of indicator: State rank (out of 51, including the District of Columbia) based on the income gap between the average income of the poorest fifth of families and the average income of the richest fifth of families in that state (1 is the most unequal).

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Bernstein, J.; McNichol, E. C.; Mishel, L.; & Zahradnik, R. (January 2000). ***Pulling apart: A state-by-state analysis of income trends***, Chapter 2, Table 2: Ratio of Incomes of Top and Bottom Fifths of Families with Children, 1996–1998.

Dates of data: 1996–1998

Profiles of Low-income Young Children (bar graphs)

The following indicators compare the state with the U.S. as a whole.

Explanation of indicators:

3 Percent of young children who live in poverty

Percent of children under age 6 living in families with income below the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold. Between 1994 and 1998, the poverty threshold for a family of three ranged from $11,821 to $13,003.

4 Percent of young children who are low-income

Percent of children under age 6 living in families with income below 200 percent of the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold. Between 1994 and 1998, 200 percent of the poverty threshold for a family of three ranged from $23,642 to $26,006.

5 State median income for families with young children

Median income level of families with children under age 6 in the state. The median is the point at which half the population is above and half is below that income level.

6 Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty

Poverty rate among young children living in single- or two-parent families with at least one parent working full-time, full-year.

7 Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time

Among low-income young children (below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold), percent living either in single-parent families with one parent employed (full- or part-time) or in two-parent families with both parents employed (full- or part-time).

8 Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance

Among low-income young children (below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold), percent reported to lack health insurance. (See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for information about how to interpret this figure.)

Source: NCCP analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, March Current Population Surveys.

Dates of data: 1994, 1996, and 1998

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

9 Wage and Income Supports

Income tax policies

Most states tax personal income. States that do not are marked "not applicable" (N/A).

State income tax threshold

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state tax threshold for a single-parent family of three is above the poverty level. The tax threshold is the income level at which a family begins to owe state income tax. NCCP compared the tax threshold in 1999 to the 2000 federal poverty guideline for a family of three ($14,150); the 2000 guideline was used because it reflects price changes through calendar year 1999.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Johnson, N.; Zahradnik, R.; & McNichol, E. C. (March 2000). ***State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999***, p. 13, Table 1A: State Income Tax Thresholds for Single-Parent Families of Three, 1999.

Date of data: Tax year 1999

Refundable earned income credit

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state offers a refundable earned income credit. State earned income credits are modeled on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit; they typically follow federal eligibility guidelines and are expressed as a percentage of the federal credit. Only refundable credits are noted here, as nonrefundable credits provide no benefits to families whose incomes are too low to owe state taxes.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Johnson, N. (November 2000). ***A hand up: How state earned income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition.*** p. 18, Table 4: State Earned Income Tax Credits Based on the Federal EITC, Tax Year 2000.

Date of data: November 2000

Refundable dependent care credit

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state offers a refundable dependent care credit. State dependent care credits are modeled on the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, although often with additional eligibility limits. Only refundable credits are noted here, as nonrefundable credits provide no benefits to families whose incomes are too low to owe state taxes.

Source: National Women's Law Center, Steinschneider, J.; Donahue, E. H.; Campbell, N. D.; & Williams, V. L. (April 1998). ***Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions,*** pp. 27–32, Appendix: State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits: Tax Year 1997; with updates from National Women's Law Center. (January 2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions: Tax year 2000 [unpublished table].

Date of data: December 31, 1999

Minimum wage

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state has a minimum wage (applicable to nonsupervisory, nonfarm, private sector employment) that exceeds the federal standard.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor. (2000). Minimum wage laws in the states, Table: Minimum Wage and Overtime Premium Pay Standards Applicable to Nonsupervisory NONFARM Private Sector Employment Under State and Federal Laws, August 1, 2000.

Date of data: August 1, 2000

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Explanation of indicator: Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance benefits for a single-parent family of three with no earnings, multiplied by 12 to obtain an annual figure. In states where welfare benefits vary by region or for different categories of recipients, the benefit level used is the one that applies to the largest number of TANF recipients in the state. NCCP compared the maximum annual benefit in 2000 to the state median income for families with young children (as reported at the top of the state page). Maximum annual benefit amount was also compared to the 2000 federal poverty guideline for a family of three ($14,150). The 2000 guideline was used because it was the most recent guideline available at the time of publication, although it reflects price changes only through calendar year 1999.

Source: State Policy Documentation Project. (2000). TANF cash assistance: Categorical and financial eligibility rules: Monthly Cash Assistance and Food Stamp Benefits for Single-Parent Family of Three with No Earnings, 2000 [table].

Date of data: June 2000

10 Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

CCDF subsidy coverage

Explanation of indicator: CCDF subsidy coverage rates standardized by estimating the number of children who ***would be eligible*** for subsidies if each state adopted the maximum federal eligibility guideline and comparing this figure to the number of children actually served. Calculations include only *CCDF* subsidies; other state child care subsidies are not included.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (December 2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in Fiscal Year 1999 (average monthly). This table updates the information reported in Table 1: Estimates of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Eligibility and Receipt: Children (Average Monthly Estimate) in *Access to child care for low-income working families.* (October 1999).

Date of data: Fiscal year 1999

Subsidy purchasing power

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state rates for providers are set at a level not lower than the 75th percentile of the local market rate based on the results of a recent market rate survey (conducted in 1997 or later), as recommended by federal guidelines.

Source: Children's Defense Fund, Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). ***State developments in child care and early education, 1999,*** pp. 34–35, Table 3: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: State Child Care Reimbursement Rates.

Date of data: June 1, 1999

Subsidy co-payment burden

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state subsidy co-payment rates do not exceed 10 percent of a family's income, as recommended by federal guidelines. Analysis is based on the co-payment rates required of a family of three living at 150 percent of the 1999 federal poverty guideline ($20,820). States where the subsidy eligibility level for a family of three is set below 150 percent of the poverty level are marked "not applicable" (N/A).

Source: Children's Defense Fund, Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). ***State developments in child care and early education, 1999,*** pp. 26–27, Table 2: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: Co-payments for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of FPL.

Date of data: June 1, 1999

State spending

Explanation of indicator: Checked if TANF funds from fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 were transferred to CCDF in fiscal year 1999.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). TANF program expenditures in FY 1999 through the 4th quarter. Table D: Percentages of Transfer Amounts to CCDF and SSBG.

Date of data: Fiscal year 1999

11 Health and Nutrition Assistance

Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL
Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL

Explanation of indicator: Checked if Medicaid/CHIP eligibility levels for infants (0–1 year) and children (1–6 years) are above 200% FPL; where a state has implemented a separate CHIP program with an eligibility limit that differs from Medicaid, the higher of the two limits is used. Federal law requires states to set Medicaid eligibility for children under age 6 no lower than 133 percent of the federal poverty level, and CHIP offers states incentives to expand health coverage for children up to 200 percent of the poverty level.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2000). State income eligibility guidelines for children's Medicaid and separate child health insurance programs [table].

Date of data: April 5, 2000

Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid

Explanation of indicator: Checked if Medicaid eligibility limit for parents applying for coverage is at or above the poverty level, as compared to the 1998 federal poverty guideline for a family of three (continental United States: $13,650; Alaska: $17,070; Hawaii: $15,700). These data are based on a 3-person family with one wage earner that does not receive cash assistance and does not pay child care expenses out-of-pocket; data assume that the family's only source of income is earnings.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Guyer, J. & Mann, C. (February 1999). ***Employed but not insured: A state-by-state analysis of the number of low-income working parents who lack health insurance***, p.11, Table 3: How Much Can a Working Parent Who is Applying for Medicaid Earn and Still Be Eligible for Coverage?

Date of data: February 1999

Food stamp coverage

Explanation of indicator: Estimate of the percent of eligible children under age 5 enrolled in food stamps. To be eligible for food stamps, a family must have a gross income at or below 130 percent of the poverty level and a net income at or below the poverty level. In the absence of recent data on the percent of eligible young children enrolled in food stamps in each state, NCCP created a proxy: the estimated number of children under age 5 living below 130 percent of the federal poverty level is compared to the number of children under age 5 receiving food stamps. Since this measure only approximates eligibility, reported coverage rates may exceed 100 percent.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture. (February 2000). *Characteristics of food stamp households: Fiscal year 1998*, p. 80, Appendix B, Table B-10: Distribution of Participants by Age and by State.

Date of data: Fiscal year 1998

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Explanation of indicator: Checked if state supplements federal WIC allocation.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Supplemental Food Programs Division. (March 2, 2000). WIC program: State appropriations–fiscal year 2000 [unpublished table].

Date of data: Fiscal year 2000

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

To collect this information, NCCP sent a survey to a single informant in each state who was identified by the National Governors' Association as an early childhood contact, generally in the Governor's Office. Surveys were followed up between April and October 2000 with phone calls to over 300 informants across state departments for education, human services, and health. After the data were compiled, all informants were asked to verify the accuracy of the information.

12 Overview

The overview describes changes in state child development and family support efforts since *Map and Track 1998*.

13 Programs for Young Children and Their Families

This section contains brief descriptions of the state's child development and family support programs, including target populations and services offered. To be included, programs had to meet the following criteria:

Focus: Programs have a central focus on child development and/or family support, such as an explicit focus on promoting positive parent-child relationships or school readiness. Programs whose *predominant* focus is child care or health were excluded. Programs that serve only children with identified developmental delays or disabilities were also excluded; however, programs that serve children *at risk* for developmental delay because of environmental factors such as poverty were included.

Funding: Programs were funded in fiscal year 2000 with state funds or federal TANF funds. Programs funded by multiple sources were included as long as the amount of state and/or TANF funding met the scale criterion (see below).

Scale: Programs have a fiscal year 2000 state and/or TANF spending level equal to or greater than $1.00 per child under age 6 in the state.

Programs are grouped by the ages of children served:

0–3 Infants and toddlers up to age 3.

3–6 Preschoolers ages 3 to 6.

0–6 Children from birth to age 6; may include specific services for infants and toddlers and/or preschool-aged children.

Other Children of all ages.

Programs implemented since *Map and Track 1998* are marked "New."

Eligibility:

Indicates criteria for determining a child's eligibility for services (see program description for more information).

Low income Eligibility based on income criteria.

Selected risk Eligibility based on selected risk factors, which may include poverty among others.

Universal Eligibility not restricted by income or risk factors.

Funding:

State funds and/or federal TANF funds reported for fiscal year 2000. Where dramatic increases were reported for fiscal year 2001, these figures are also noted.

T Funding includes federal TANF funds

▲ Funding has increased by more than 10 percent since *Map and Track 1998*

▼ Funding has decreased by more than 10 percent since *Map and Track 1998*

◆ Funding has not changed by more than 10 percent since *Map and Track 1998*

Served:

Reported number of children, families, or individuals served, as noted. Figures reported were the most recent available.

14 The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

Required State requires programs to have a plan for preparing children for the transition to kindergarten.

Encouraged State encourages programs to have a transition plan.

None reported No transition efforts reported.

Not applicable State does not supplement Head Start or fund other prekindergarten services.

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

Full-day All districts are required to provide full-day kindergarten services.

Half-day All districts are required to provide half-day kindergarten services.

Not required School districts are not required to provide kindergarten services.

Kindergarten attendance:

Compulsory Parents are required to enroll their children in kindergarten.

Voluntary Parents may choose whether to enroll their children in kindergarten.

15 Early Childhood Systems Development

This section describes reported early childhood systems development initiatives, defined as strategies to develop the infrastructure, resources, and leadership necessary to create a coordinated system of services and supports to address the many needs of young children and their families. Also included here are systems development strategies that target children of all ages but have a specific focus on young children.

16 Related Initiatives

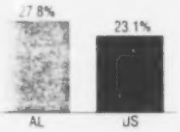
This section describes reported systems development efforts that target children of all ages, without a specific focus on young children.

ALABAMA

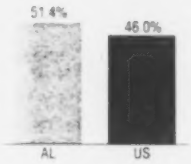
360,291 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 12 (1 is most unequal)

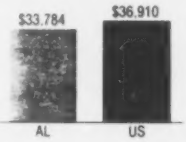
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



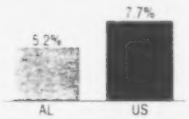
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

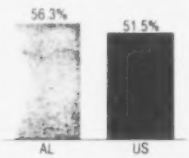
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $1,968

Percent of state median income: 5.8%

Percent of federal poverty level: 13.9%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: AL: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

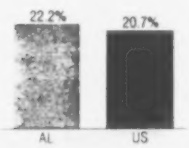
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (AL: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (AL: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $3,036

Percent of federal poverty level: 22.2%

Food stamp coverage

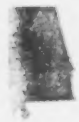
Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

AL: 65.3% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.



State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

An attempt to pass legislation to implement a statewide lottery to fund prekindergarten failed in 2000. However, as of fiscal year 2001, there will be an Office of School Readiness. State funding for the Preschool Collaboration Project, the only program reported in *Map and Track 1998*, has ended, but the state does require all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Office of School Readiness*** was established by legislation in May 2000. Its goal is to promote collaborative systems so that all 4-year-olds can enter school ready to learn. Modeled after Georgia's office of the same name, and borrowing from North Carolina and Florida initiatives, this office was created despite the failure of legislation that would have approved a lottery-funded prekindergarten program. There is currently only administrative funding for the agency in which the office is housed, the Department of Children's Affairs. Funding for programs is expected to come largely from public/private partnerships.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

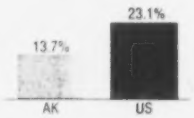
T includes TANF funds

ALASKA

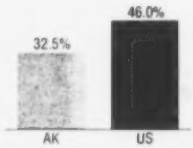
66,282 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 46 (1 is most unequal)

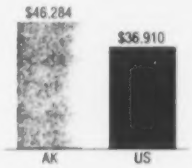
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



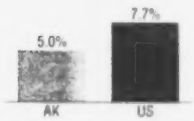
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $5.65

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

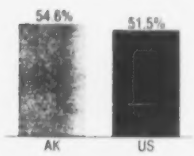
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $11,076

Percent of state median income: 23.9%

Percent of federal poverty level: 78.3%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: AK: 13% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

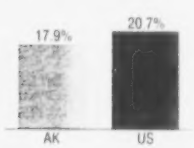
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (AK: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (AK: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $14,172

Percent of federal poverty level: 83.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

AK: 62.9% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Alaska has implemented the Governor's Smart Start Initiative, which funds programs that offer preventive services for pregnant women and young children. The size of the Head Start supplement did not change significantly, though the funding source shifted largely from state funds to TANF. State spending on Healthy Families increased.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $5.7 million (FY00) T ◆

0–6 ***Healthy Families*** grants support services, based on the Healthy Families America model, for at-risk pregnant women and children from birth to age 5. Children may be enrolled from birth to 3 months old. Eligible families are identified based on a measure of familial stress. The program serves 7 percent of the eligible population.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $1.01 million (FY00) T ▲

Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Governor's Smart Start Initiative*** passed the legislature in 1998. The purpose is to provide funding to an array of existing prevention programs that focus on maternal and child health and on intervention for at-risk children. It is funded primarily by Medicaid, supplemented by $1 million from new tobacco taxes.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

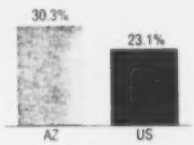
T includes TANF funds

ARIZONA

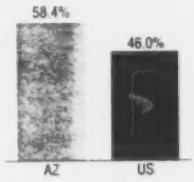
487,198 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 3 (1 is most unequal)

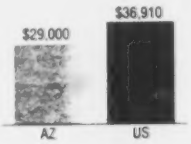
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



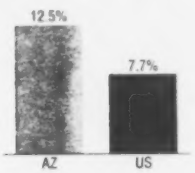
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

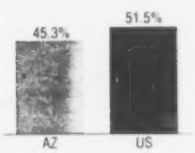
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,164

Percent of state median income: 14.4%

Percent of federal poverty level: 29.4%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: AZ: 13% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

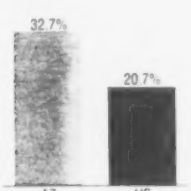
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (AZ: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (AZ: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,011

Percent of federal poverty level: 51.4%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

AZ: 35.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

ARIZONA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Arizona's investment in prekindergarten has not changed since *Map and Track 1998*, and remains below what it was before prekindergarten was folded into a block grant program in 1996. The state has substantially increased funding for Healthy Families Arizona, and while Arizona Health Start was not funded in fiscal year 1999, it was reinstated at a lower funding level in fiscal year 2000. Funding for family literacy services has remained unchanged.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Arizona Health Start Program*** provides home visits and group classes to support at-risk pregnant women and their families and connect them with community-based prenatal care, health and nutrition education, and other preventive services. Using lay health workers from within neighborhoods, program goals include securing primary providers for families, reducing low birthweight, and educating parents about health and child development. Families may continue to participate until their children reach age 2, after which they are referred to other programs.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $700,000 (FY00) ▼
Served: 3,500 families (FY99)

3–6 ***Family Literacy Program*** offers adult education, early childhood education, parent-child activities, and parent education and support groups to families with children ages 3 to 5. The program is located in high-risk communities, and targets children who are most in need due to low income or demonstrated educational need. Providers often partner with early care and education providers to deliver services for children.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 287 families (FY99)

0–6 ***Early Childhood Block Grants*** support services for children from birth to age 8, and are available to school districts to use for any combination of infant and toddler services, prekindergarten, full-day kindergarten, or supplemental programming or equipment for grades K–3. Prekindergarten services, averaging 15 hours of classroom time per week, serve children from low-income families (at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level). Approximately half of the block grant funding supports prekindergarten, although districts are not required to offer such services. Comprehensive services may be provided at districts' discretion.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $19.5 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 3,600 children in prekindergarten (FY00)

Healthy Families Arizona offers home visits, parent education, and referrals to community services to at-risk families with children from birth to age 5. The program is designed to foster the healthy growth and development of infants and toddlers, enhance family functioning and parent-child interactions, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5.5 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 1,993 families (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

75

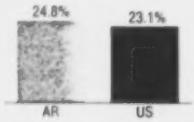
T includes TANF funds

ARKANSAS

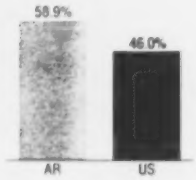
208,778 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 29 (1 is most unequal)

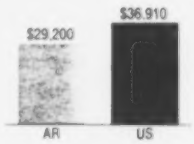
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



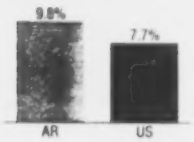
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit*—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $288

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

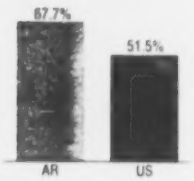
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $2,448

Percent of state median income: 8.4%
Percent of federal poverty level: 17.3%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: AR: 6% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

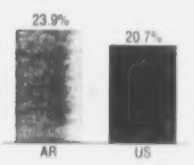
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (AR: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (AR: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $3,060
Percent of federal poverty level: 22.4%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
AR: 64.3% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

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* Only for care of children ages 3 to 5 in an accredited, developmentally appropriate early childhood education program

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Funding for prekindergarten and family support services for young children and their families in Arkansas has remained level since *Map and Track 1998*. In addition, the state requires all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 ***Arkansas Better Chance*** provides home- and classroom-based services for children under age 6, with prekindergarten in some communities and family support home visits in others. The program targets children who are identified as at risk due to poverty, low birthweight, disability, parents with substance abuse problems, or other factors. One-third of the prekindergarten programs are school-day in length, and the remainder are full-day.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $10 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 9,345 children (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

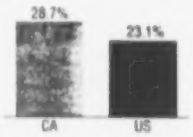
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

CALIFORNIA

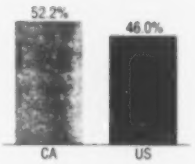
3,288,388 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 6 (1 is most unequal)

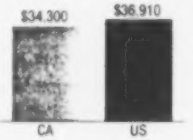
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



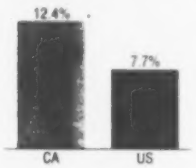
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $5.75

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

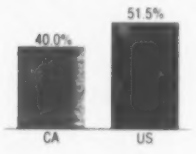
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $7,512

Percent of state median income: 21.9%

Percent of federal poverty level: 53.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: CA: 13% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey*

Subsidy co-payment burden

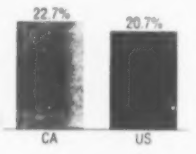
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (CA: 250% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (CA: 250% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $10,368

Percent of federal poverty level: 76.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

CA: 52.2% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

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* The state rate in California is set at 1.5 standard deviations above the average market rate survey from 1997.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

CALIFORNIA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, California has implemented the California Children and Families Act, which supports comprehensive early childhood services. The state nearly doubled funding for prekindergarten, more than doubled investment in support services for teen parents, and began two pilot programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***School-Age Parent and Infant Development Program**** offers parenting classes, parent-child activities, on-site child care, counseling, and health services to pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in selected schools.
Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $21.9 million (FY00) ▲
Served: N/A

The California Safe and Healthy Families (Cal-SAHF) Family Support Home Visiting Model Program (New) is a pilot program in seven sites that combines family support home visiting and center-based services for at-risk families with children from birth to age 3. Services are designed to promote positive parenting and optimal child development and prevent abuse and neglect.
Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.3 million (FY00)
Served: 1,200 families (FY00)

3–6 ***State Preschool Program*** provides half-day (3.5 hours) prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds living in families at or below 60 to 65 percent of the state median income.
Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $230.2 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 82,638 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT)*** supports a variety of efforts to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect and to support child victims of crime, with priority given to prevention programs for at-risk children from birth to age 5. Some funds are invested in pilot programs such as Cal-SAHF (see above) and ABC (see below), but 90 percent are distributed to counties for local-level prevention, intervention, and treatment projects.
Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $13 million (FY00)
Served: N/A

Answers Benefiting Children (ABC) (New) is a pilot program that builds on the Cal-SAHF model (see above), using a more integrated approach to service delivery. Implemented in 17 sites, the program combines family support home visits with center-based services at Family Resource Centers that also offer many other services. The program targets at-risk families with children from birth to age 5, though some services are available to children up to age 18.
Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.2 million (FY00)
Served: 1,200 families (FY00)

Other ***Healthy Start*** supports school-integrated services for children from prekindergarten through 12th grade. Services are designed at the local level to improve school readiness, educational success, physical and emotional health, and family strength. Qualifying schools have significant percentages of low-income or limited English proficiency students; all students in participating schools may receive services.
Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $39 million (FY00) ◆

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***California Children and Families Act*** (Proposition 10), passed in 1998, supports statewide and local efforts to develop integrated and collaborative early childhood development programs and family services. The goal is to ensure that children from birth to age 5 have good health, loving relationships, and opportunities to learn, which will help them get ready to succeed in school. The California Children and Families Commission provides statewide leadership; funds research projects and model programs; supports a public education campaign; and works with the 58 County Commissions. County Commissions receive 80 percent of the funding to meet locally-identified needs. Funding is raised through a tobacco tax and totaled approximately $690 million in fiscal year 2000.

* In July 2000, this program was replaced by the California School-Age Families Education Program, which combines three pre-existing programs for pregnant and parenting teens.

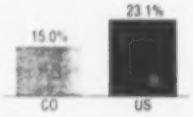
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

COLORADO

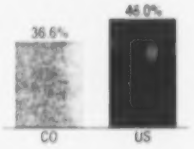
316,351 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 47 (1 is most unequal)

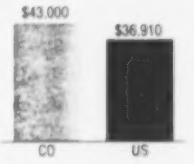
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



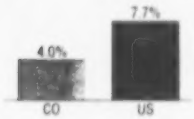
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 10.0%
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $720

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

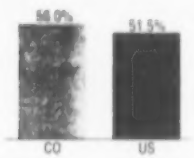
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,272

Percent of state median income: 9.9%
Percent of federal poverty level: 30.2%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: CO: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

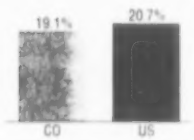
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (CO: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (CO: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $6,120
Percent of federal poverty level: 44.8%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
CO: 53.2% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

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Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Colorado has increased funding for prekindergarten by 10 percent, while reducing funding for Family Centers and children's mental health services. The state has also expanded its Consolidated Child Care Pilot Projects, which allow communities to pool funds across prekindergarten, Head Start, and subsidized child care to better meet the needs of families with children from birth to age 5.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Colorado Preschool Program*** serves 4- and 5-year-olds who are at risk for school failure through local programs operated by broad-based community councils. Localities have some discretion in defining eligibility criteria. The program provides funding for half-day services (4 hours per day, 4 days per week) and is available in 74 percent of school districts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $22 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 9,550 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Tony Grampsas Youth Prevention Fund*** makes grants to community-based organizations to prevent crime by bringing parents, neighbors, and community members together to help children and families. Local grantees may offer child care, home visits, teen parenting programs, family literacy services, and other early interventions that target high-risk children and youth, as well as their parents. At least 20 percent of funding must be dedicated to projects serving children from birth to age 8; in practice, about a third of the programs serve young children.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $9 million (FY00) ▲
Served: N/A

Family Centers provide one-stop access to a range of comprehensive, community-based services (e.g., child care, parent education, immunizations, well-baby care, information and referrals, emergency food and clothing, and crisis counseling) to families with children from birth to age 6. The centers are located in predominantly low-income neighborhoods and are open to all families in the community; some services target specific populations. Centers are available in 22 percent of counties.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $700,000 million (FY00) ▼
Served: 25,000 individuals

Early Intervention Pilots seek to increase mental health services for children from birth to age 8. The two pilot communities fund early childhood mental health specialists, who provide consultation to early childhood teachers and work directly with children in child care centers and Head Start.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $351,000 (FY00) ▼
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☑ Not required*

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Through ***Consolidated Child Care Pilot Projects***, local communities pool prekindergarten, Head Start, and child care funds to better meet the needs of families with children from birth to age 5. The pilots were designed, in the wake of welfare reform, to help communities serve the highest-risk children in accordance with local needs, such as providing full-day services for infants and toddlers. The pilots allow localities to seek waivers from requirements for the Colorado Preschool Program and the state's child care subsidy program to use funds more flexibly (e.g., to serve infants and toddlers with prekindergarten funds). Increased efforts are being made to coordinate the pilots with other programs that serve young children. Eighteen pilot projects serve 40 percent of counties.

* State funding is available for half-day kindergarten, and all districts provide it, even though it is not required.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

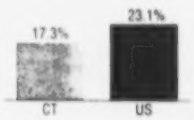
T includes TANF funds

CONNECTICUT

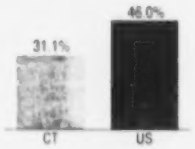
280,649 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 20 *(1 is most unequal)*

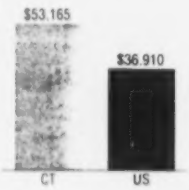
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



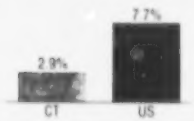
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $6.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

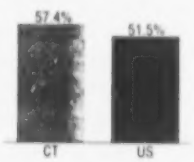
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $6,516

Percent of state median income: 12.3%

Percent of federal poverty level: 46.0%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: CT: 5% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

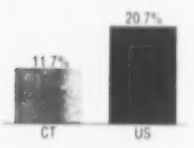
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (CT: 300% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (CT: 300% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $10,392

Percent of federal poverty level: 76.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL: CT: 66.9% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Connecticut has doubled its funding for the School Readiness and Child Care Initiative since fiscal year 1998, while maintaining its Head Start supplement at essentially the same level. The state has also significantly increased funding for other child development and family support services through its Family Resource Centers and the Healthy Families Connecticut program.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $5.1 million (FY00) T ◆

School Readiness and Child Care Initiative supports early care and education services for 3- and 4-year-olds in school districts with high concentrations of poverty. See description under "Early Childhood Systems Development" below.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $41 million (FY00) T ▲
Served: 6,500 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Family Resource Centers*** offer or link with other programs to provide prekindergarten and child care for 3- and 4-year olds, before- and after-school care for children up to age 12, supports for parents of newborns, parent education, outreach to family daycare providers, positive youth development services, and adult education and family literacy services. Centers are located in school districts with significant portions of low-income residents; within those districts, all families with children from birth to age 12 are eligible for services. Twenty-two percent of school districts have at least one center.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $6 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 13,000 families (FY00)

Healthy Families Connecticut provides education and support to interested first-time parents, and intensive home visits to families identified as at risk for child abuse or neglect. Services continue until the child turns age 5.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3.6 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 617 families (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory* ☐ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***School Readiness and Child Care Initiative*** blends prekindergarten and child care services to provide full- or extended-day care (up to 10 hours) for families that require it. While families may choose half-day services, 76 percent of children served receive full- or extended-day care. At the state level, the initiative is jointly administered by the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services. Funds are allocated to local collaborative councils that decide who will provide prekindergarten and child care services in their communities. The councils are composed of elected officials, superintendents of schools, parents, and representatives from Head Start, prekindergarten programs, child care providers, social service agencies, and family resource centers. Each council has a grant coordinator who serves as a liaison among the council providers and the state Department of Education.

* Parents have the option of waiving kindergarten, but all children who are age 5 by December 31 must be registered with the school district.

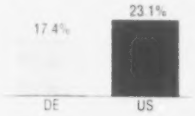
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

DELAWARE

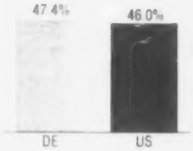
58,616 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 38 (1 is most unequal)

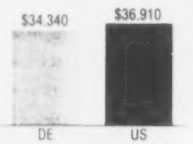
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



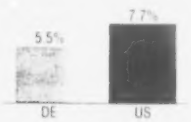
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $5.65

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

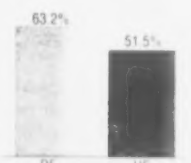
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,056

Percent of state median income: 11.8%

Percent of federal poverty level: 28.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: DE: 12% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

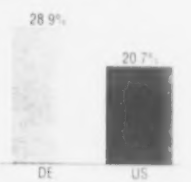
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (DE: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (DE: 200% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $14,730

Percent of federal poverty level: 107.9%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

DE: 63.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

State funding for prekindergarten services has increased by almost 50 percent since *Map and Track 1998* in an effort to provide early education for all 4-year-olds who are Head Start-eligible. Funding for parent education programs, which include home visiting programs for parents with young children, has also increased substantially.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Early Childhood Assistance Program*** is a prekindergarten program for 3- and 4-year-old children living at or below the federal poverty level. Programs follow Head Start performance standards and most services are delivered by Head Start grantees.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3.8 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 843 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Parent Education Programs*** include over 60 programs with the goals of improving the quality and effectiveness of parent education and support services, increasing awareness of the services available, and helping parents access the services they need. Although the programs can serve families with children from birth to age 18, the emphasis is on early childhood. A state Parent Education Partnership coordinates activities throughout the state, and a steering committee has been established to ensure that home visiting services are coordinated.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $6 million (FY00) ▲
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

In June 2000, the state legislature approved the establishment of the ***Office of Early Care and Education*** to coordinate the implementation of Delaware's Early Success Report, a long-term plan designed to improve the quality and accessibility of early care and education services for children from birth to age 5 and to foster parental choice. The plan was drafted through a year-long process involving business representatives, early care and education professionals, and state officials.

Related Initiatives

The ***Family Services Cabinet Council*** sponsors state interagency coordination efforts and local services integration initiatives to link state agencies and community services with local schools. Some young children are served as siblings of the children in these schools.

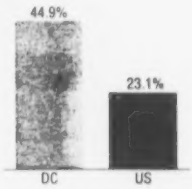
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

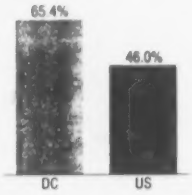
46,505 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 1 (1 is most unequal)

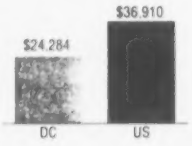
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



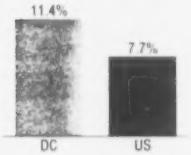
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 10.0%
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $6.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

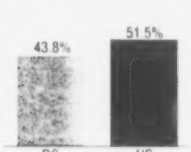
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,548

Percent of state median income: 18.7%

Percent of federal poverty level: 32.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: DC: 3% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

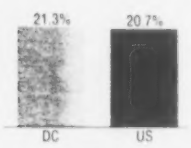
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (DC: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (DC: 200% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $27,300

Percent of federal poverty level: 200.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

DC: 74.5% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

This is the first time *Map and Track* has reported on programs and initiatives in the District of Columbia. The District supports a Head Start supplement and a universal prekindergarten program for 4-year-olds, and it also invests in parent education for families with infants and toddlers. In addition, the District requires schools to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Parent Education Collaboration*** works to ensure that parent education is available citywide. Funds support direct services, including center-based classes and home visiting programs, and program activities are coordinated by a group of representatives from parent education providers from across the city.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $250,000 (FY00)
Served: N/A

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $8.6 million (FY00)

Public School Prekindergarten Program is available in all elementary schools in the city, and provides full-day (6.5 hours) services for 4-year-olds. The program is funded according to a per-pupil formula. There are no eligibility criteria; children are served on a first-come, first-served basis, and waiting lists are reported to be small.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $26.3 million (FY00)
Served: 4,063 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

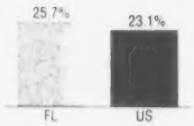
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

FLORIDA

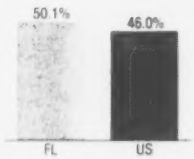
1,132,908 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 14 (1 is most unequal)

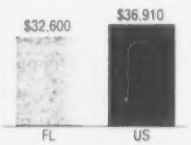
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



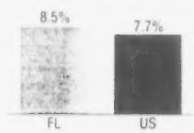
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

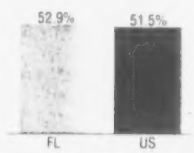
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,636

Percent of state median income: 11.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 25.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: FL: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

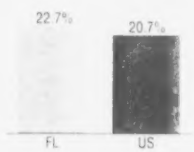
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (FL: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (FL: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $4,704

Percent of federal poverty level: 34.5%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

FL: 52.6% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

FLORIDA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

In 1999, Florida passed school readiness legislation to expand and improve early childhood services. The state has implemented a new home visiting program for at-risk families with young children, and has increased funding for Healthy Start by 21 percent since *Map and Track 1998*. Florida also continues to fund prekindergarten services for low-income children and children of migrant workers.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Healthy Start*** provides health and developmental screenings, parent education, case management, home visits, and service referrals to pregnant women or families with infants up to age 1 (up to age 3 in some areas). The 32 Healthy Start Coalitions—county or multi-county public/private partnerships—design and monitor local service delivery systems.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $38.6 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 75,857 infants; 88,985 pregnant women (FY99)

Florida First Start is a home/school partnership for children from birth to age 4 at risk for school failure. Services include parent education and support, monthly home visits, child development and health screenings, and parent group meetings and resource centers. Four-year-olds may be served if they are not enrolled in a full-day prekindergarten program.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3 million (FY00)
Served: 3,000 children (FY00)

3–6 ***Prekindergarten Early Intervention*** provides low-income 3- and 4-year-olds with full-day (6.5 hours) school-based services in all 67 school districts. The Partnership for School Readiness promotes coordination between this program and other early childhood services. Funding is provided by state lottery proceeds.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $97 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 30,325 children (FY00)

Migrant Prekindergarten provides full-day (6 hours) classroom and comprehensive services to 3- and 4-year-old children of agricultural workers.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3.3 million (FY00)
Served: 3,270 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Healthy Families Florida*** (New) is a community-based voluntary home visiting program to promote positive parent-child interaction and healthy child development and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Based on the Healthy Families America model, services begin prenatally or at birth and continue for 3 to 5 years depending on family need. The program operates in high-risk areas in 73 percent of Florida's counties. All families residing in these areas are eligible for screening; families deemed at-risk then receive services. Funding is mostly from tobacco settlement funds, supplemented with TANF funds.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $25.9 million (FY00) **T**
Served: 6,651 families (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Florida Partnership for School Readiness legislation was passed in 1999 to enhance the availability and quality of early childhood programs for children from birth to age 5. It authorized the creation of the state-level Partnership for School Readiness as an independent state office; 57 local School Readiness Coalitions; and the School Readiness Trust Fund, which will blend existing early care and education funds to be awarded as block grants to the coalitions. The first block grants will be awarded in fiscal year 2001. The Florida Partnership sets state policy and approves the establishment of local coalitions. Both state and local entities develop plans addressing eligibility, enhancement of existing services, program standards, evaluation, and outcome indices.

Related Initiatives

TEAM Florida Partnership, a state interagency policy, coordination, and technical assistance group, supports community efforts to improve family preservation, family support, and other services. Community Facilitators ensure broad participation in planning and implementation and provide feedback to the state.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

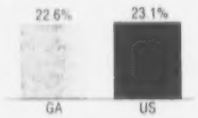
T includes TANF funds

GEORGIA

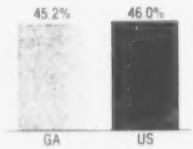
641,830 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 13 (1 is most unequal)

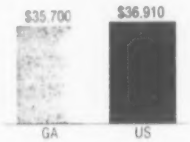
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



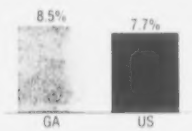
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

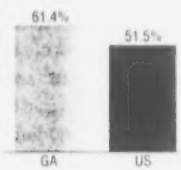
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,360

Percent of state median income: 9.4%

Percent of federal poverty level: 23.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: GA: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

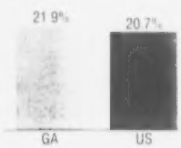
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (GA: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (GA: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $6,156

Percent of federal poverty level: 45.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

GA: 78.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Georgia has continued to support universal prekindergarten and has introduced a new Head Start supplement. The state has also increased funding for its Healthy Families program. The number of Community Partnerships, officially designated by local governments to achieve specified outcomes for children and families, has doubled. In addition, the state requires all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Healthy Families Georgia*** screens first-time parents and provides support and education to them, as well as voluntary, intensive, and long-term home visiting to families identified as high risk.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $1.5 million (FY00) ▲

Served: 1,269 families screened; 949 families home-visited (FY99)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $2.1 million (FY00)

Voluntary Prekindergarten Program provides full-day (6.5 hours) classroom-based services to 4-year-olds throughout the state. Sites serving more than six low-income children have the option to employ resource coordinators to link families to needed social services.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal

Funding: $225 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 62,900 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Family Connection is a statewide network of 155 counties (out of 159) that have made a commitment to improve results for children and families through community-level services integration. At the state level, partners include the Georgia Departments of Children and Youth Services, Education, Human Resources, and Medical Assistance, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Community collaboratives receive start-up grants and are then eligible for funds to implement the community strategic plan. Twenty-three of the Family Connection collaboratives have been designated by local governments as Community Partnerships, officially responsible for achieving results, including ones specifically pertaining to early childhood, for the children and families of their counties. The state supported this initiative with $8.4 million in fiscal year 2000.

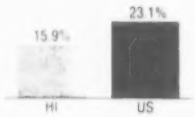
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

HAWAII

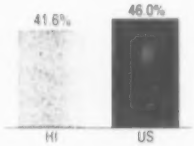
100,451 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 21 (1 is most unequal)

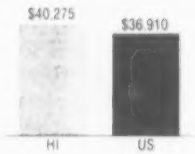
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



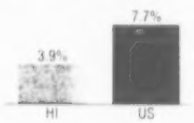
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $1,200

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $5.25

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

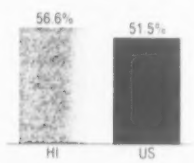
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $6,840

Percent of state median income: 17.0%

Percent of federal poverty level: 48.3%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: HI: 9% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

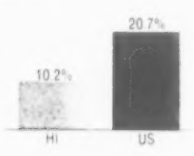
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (HI: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (HI: 133% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $15,708

Percent of federal poverty level: 100.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

HI: 111.5% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Hawai'i's investment in programming for children ages 3 to 6 has remained essentially level. The state increased its support for teen parents, and continued to promote community-level collaboration in developing and delivering services for young children and their families. In addition, the state requires all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Graduation Reality and Dual-Role Skills Program (GRADS)*** provides child care, job skills development, parenting education, and health promotion for teen mothers and fathers in high schools around the state.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $1.1 million (FY00) ▲

Served: 1,200 teen parents (FY99)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $524,000 (FY00) ▲

Preschool Open Doors enables 3- and 4-year-olds living at or below 75 percent of the state median income to attend full-day early care and education programs at licensed centers. Priority is given to children with the lowest family incomes and to those with special needs, such as homelessness, limited English skills, developmental delays, or physical or mental impairment.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $2.4 million (FY00) **T** ▼

Served: 800 children (FY99)

0–6 ***Healthy Start Family Support Program*** offers home-based intervention for families with young children to enhance parent functioning, promote child development, and prevent child abuse and neglect among at-risk families. The program is mandated to conduct universal screenings and to serve at-risk families with home visits by paraprofessionals.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $5.7 million (FY00) ▼

Served: 2,928 children; 2,500 families (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Good Beginnings Alliance***, a statewide public/private partnership, works to improve and coordinate services and supports for children from birth to age 6. Collaborative, community-based, public/private Good Beginnings Councils in each of Hawai'i's four counties develop strategic plans to coordinate services for young children and families, with overall coordination and implementation assistance from the Interdepartmental Council (made up of state agency directors) and state Good Beginnings staff.

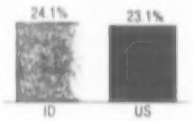
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ● no significant change **T** includes TANF funds

IDAHO

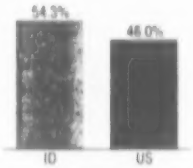
110,143 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 40 (1 is most unequal)

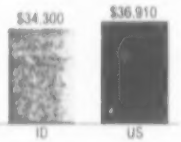
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



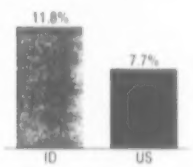
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

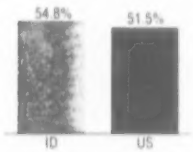
- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,516
Percent of state median income: 10.3%
Percent of federal poverty level: 24.8%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: ID: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

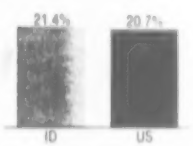
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (ID: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (ID: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $4,872
Percent of federal poverty level: 35.7%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
ID: 37.6% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Idaho has begun supplementing Head Start and funding parent education for families with children from birth to age 5, using TANF funds. It has also implemented a developmental monitoring program for infants and toddlers.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Idaho Infant Toddler Program*** (New) is a statewide program for developmental monitoring of children from birth to age 3. Hospitals can refer any family to the program, but the emphasis is on high-risk children. Every four months, participating families receive information intended to raise parental awareness of developmental milestones, and are asked to respond. When families do not respond, the state sends follow-up letters about immunizations and other important issues.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $140,000 (FY00)
Served: 5,500 children (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $1.5 million (FY00) T

0–6 ***Parent Education*** (New) supports families with children from birth to age 5 through monthly or weekly home visits by child development workers, who answer questions about child development and encourage parents to read to their children. Most programs are operated by Parents as Teachers providers.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $525,000 (FY00) T
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

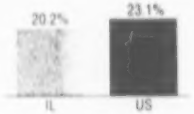
T includes TANF funds

ILLINOIS

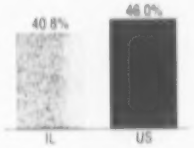
1,117,291 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 24 (1 is most unequal)

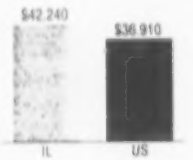
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



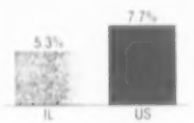
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

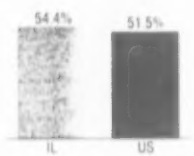
- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,524
Percent of state median income: 10.7%
Percent of federal poverty level: 32.0%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: IL: 14% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey*

Subsidy co-payment burden

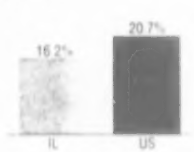
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (IL: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (IL: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,164
Percent of federal poverty level: 52.5%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
IL: 61.7% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

* Illinois has three regional rates; given variation among counties, rates may be above, equal to, or below the 75th percentile in a particular county.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Implemented in 1998, Illinois' Early Childhood Block Grant combined funding for three previously distinct early childhood initiatives that together focus on children from birth to age 5 who are at risk for school failure; total funding has increased by 30 percent since *Map and Track 1998*. The state also funds support services for teen parents and home visiting for children at risk of abuse or neglect, and is working to enhance service coordination for infants and toddlers.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 ***Early Childhood Block Grant*** combines three early childhood initiatives that were previously funded separately: Prekindergarten, Model Early Childhood Parental Training, and the Prevention Initiative. Together, the programs serve at-risk children from birth to age 5 and their families. Eight percent of the Block Grant must be used to fund programs for infants and toddlers; the majority of the funds support Prekindergarten. Proposals are competitively funded and must show a direct link among the three initiatives.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $170.2 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 55,000 children in pre-k (FY00)

Parents Too Soon serves adolescents and teen parents throughout the state. In addition to supporting pregnancy prevention efforts, the program helps new or expectant teen parents develop nurturing relationships with their children, obtain optimum mental and physical health, and avoid subsequent pregnancies.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $10.4 million (FY00)
Served: 24,453 teenagers (FY99)

Healthy Families Illinois seeks to strengthen family functioning and improve parent-child interaction through voluntary intensive home visiting to families with children from birth to age 5 who are at risk of abuse or neglect.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $8.2 million (FY00)
Served: 3,189 families (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Birth to Three Project is an interagency, public/private partnership for planning and policy development designed to create a comprehensive, coordinated statewide system of preventive services for children from birth to age 3 and their families. As a part of this project, Illinois is testing a service-coordination model called All Our Kids (AOK) Network in 10 pilot sites. Supported by $1 million in state funds in fiscal year 2000, these sites have engaged a broad-based collaborative of families, providers, business partners, the faith community, and education to ensure a continuum of services in each community.

Related Initiatives

Project Success encourages community planning to coordinate social services at or near schools for children from kindergarten through eighth grade. A state interagency steering committee oversees and provides technical assistance to local efforts. The state funded the initiative with $3.8 million in fiscal year 2000.

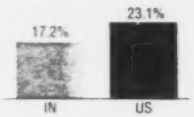
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

INDIANA

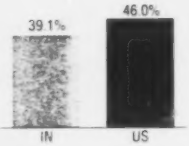
533,771 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 50 (1 is most unequal)

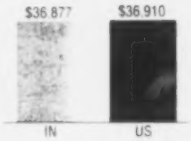
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



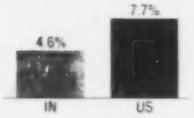
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit*
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

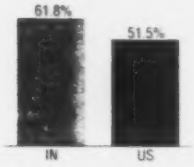
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,456

Percent of state median income: 9.4%

Percent of federal poverty level: 24.4%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: IN: 7% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

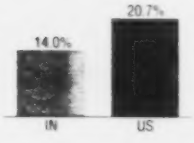
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (IN: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (IN: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $4,524

Percent of federal poverty level: 33.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

IN: 54.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

* Indiana offers a refundable "Earned Income Tax Credit," but this credit differs substantially from other state earned income credits in its eligibility rules and benefit structure.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Indiana has increased funding for Healthy Families Indiana using TANF funds, but funding for the Step Ahead Initiative has remained level, while the scope of the initiative has been expanded to serve children of all ages. The state funds no other child development or family support programs for young children.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Healthy Families Indiana*** assists families with child growth and development by offering intensive home visits, parent education and support, and help accessing health services to families from the prenatal stage until children turn age 3. Based on the Healthy Families America model, it is available in all counties and is serving about 30 percent of families.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $27 million (FY00) T ▲

Served: 8,900 families (FY99)

3–6 None reported.

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged

☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Building Bright Beginnings is a governor's initiative designed to promote healthy development among children from birth to age 4. The Governor's Advisory Team, which includes representatives from all state agencies, meets monthly. Goals of the initiative include encouraging responsible parenting, reducing child abuse, promoting health and quality early care and education, and encouraging community mobilization. Initiative funding comes from participating agencies. As part of the effort, the Indiana Center on Early Childhood Development was opened in summer 2000, with funding from Step Ahead (see below). The center will serve as a coordinating body to gather, assess, and disseminate information to assist in policy-making and public understanding.

Related Initiatives

The ***Step Ahead Initiative*** restructures state activities and fosters community planning to build comprehensive, county-designed systems of child care and preschool services, family support, health and nutrition, and mental health services. The scope of the initiative has been expanded to children of all ages since *Map and Track 1998*. A state interagency council oversees planning by collaborative Step Ahead Councils in every county, offering program facilitation, regulatory relief, blended funding, joint contracts, and other technical assistance upon request. The state spent $3.5 million in fiscal year 2000, of which $2.7 million was granted to communities.

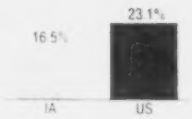
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

IOWA

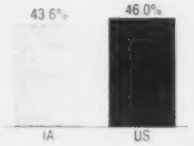
248,804 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 49 (1 is most unequal)

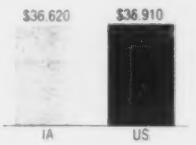
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



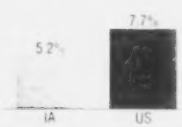
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $1,080

Minimum wage

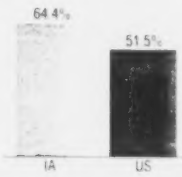
- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,112
Percent of state median income: 14.0%
Percent of federal poverty level: 36.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: IA: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

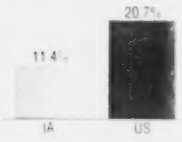
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (IA: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (IA: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $12,750
Percent of federal poverty level: 93.4%

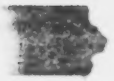
Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
IA: 47.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.



State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Iowa has increased the role of local communities in building early childhood programs and collaborative strategies by establishing and supporting Community Empowerment Areas. The state has also increased funding for Healthy Families Iowa, while state support for other child development and family support programs has not changed significantly.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Healthy Families Iowa*** offers home visits to families with children from birth to age 4 to improve coping and parenting skills in order to promote optimal child development and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $762,000 (FY00) ▲
Served: 752 families (FY99)

Shared Vision Parent Support Project offers parent support and home visits to families with children from birth to age 3 deemed at risk for academic failure. The program is available in 12 sites across the state.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $700,500 (FY00) ◆
Served: 1,000 families (FY99)

3–6 ***Shared Vision Preschool*** provides prekindergarten for children ages 3 to 5 who are at risk of academic failure. Some of the programs are full-day, and all providers must be accredited. Local Community Empowerment Areas (see below) may also choose to fund Shared Vision Preschool with Empowerment funds, but providers must meet accreditation criteria.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $8.4 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 2,000 children (FY99)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The Iowa Community Empowerment Initiative was legislated in 1998 to create a partnership between communities and state government, focusing initially on the well-being of families with young children from birth to age 5. All 99 counties are part of a Community Empowerment Area, and all receive funding to build early childhood programs and collaborative strategies. Area funding levels are based on the number of resident welfare cases; the state-level Iowa Empowerment Board provides oversight and technical assistance to local Areas. In fiscal year 2000, the initiative was supported with $10.2 million in state funds and $2.8 million in TANF money.

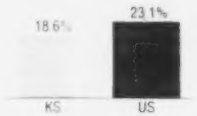
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

KANSAS

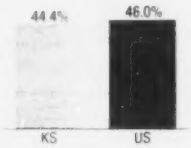
239,016 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 22 (1 is most unequal)

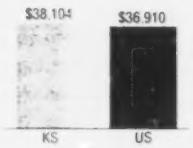
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



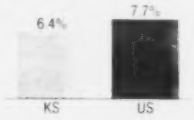
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 10.0%
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

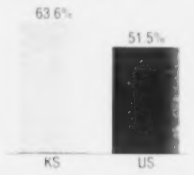
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,836

Percent of state median income: 12.7%

Percent of federal poverty level: 34.2%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: KS: 7% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

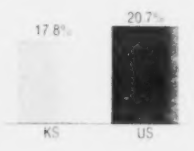
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (KS: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (KS: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $5,916

Percent of federal poverty level: 43.3%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

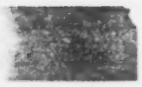
KS: 38.1% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

KANSAS



State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Kansas has implemented a five-year initiative with TANF funds to expand Early Head Start and Head Start to provide full-day, full-year services to selected families with children under age 4. The state has also implemented a new prekindergarten program for at-risk 4-year-olds, doubled the funding level for its parent education program, and increased state spending on home visits for newborns. The state does not require school districts to provide kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Head Start Initiative*** (New) provides full-day (minimum of 6 hours), full-year Early Head Start services to low-income families engaged in full-time employment or training and education. Combined with a Head Start supplement (see below), the initiative has enabled some Head Start providers to serve not only infants and toddlers but also 3-year-olds who were not being served. Beginning in fiscal year 2001, the funds are being combined so that grantees will receive a single grant to serve children under age 4. The initiative is funded for five years, beginning in fiscal year 1999, with TANF funds.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5 million (FY00) **T**
Served: 525 children (FY99)

Kansas Parenting Program is based on the Parents as Teachers model and offers home visits, group meetings, health and developmental screenings, and referrals to other services to all parents from pregnancy until their children turn age 3. The program is available in 73 percent of school districts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $5.5 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 17,875 children; 15,000 families (FY00)

Kansas Healthy Start Home Visitor Program offers home visits to all pregnant women and mothers with infants under age 1, with priority given to high-risk families as applicable. Home visitors provide information and referrals to support services, and screen for child abuse and neglect. Services are available in all counties except one.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $751,444 (FY00) ▲
Served: 16,000 families (FY99)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $2.5 million (FY00) **T** (see Early Head Start Initiative above)

Four-Year-Old At-Risk Preschool Program (New) provides early education services to 4-year-olds who are considered at risk due to poverty, teen parents, minor developmental delays, limited English skills, or other risk factors. Most programs are half-day (2.5 hours). Funding is awarded competitively to school districts, 17 percent of which currently have programs.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5 million (FY00)
Served: 2,230 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☑ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Early Childhood Stakeholders Committee includes representatives from the state's departments for education, human services, and health, as well as Head Start, higher education, schools, other programs that serve families, and the religious community. The group meets quarterly, or more often if working on specific projects, to work toward improving the delivery of services to young children and their families.

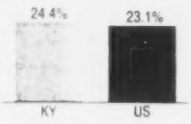
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change **T** includes TANF funds

KENTUCKY

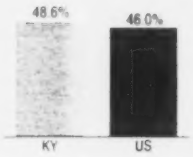
301,795 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 10 (1 is most unequal)

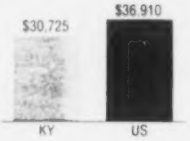
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



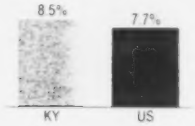
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

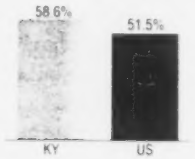
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,144

Percent of state median income: 10.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 22.2%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: KY: 15% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

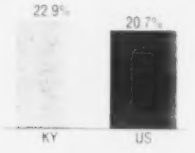
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (KY: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (KY: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,380

Percent of federal poverty level: 54.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

KY: 62.3% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

KENTUCKY

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Kentucky recently passed a new Governor's Early Childhood Initiative that devotes $56 million over two years to an array of initiatives to improve maternal and child health, address the quality of child care, provide family support, and develop the state's early childhood infrastructure. Funding for the state's prekindergarten program increased by 15 percent since *Map and Track 1998*.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS)*** (New) is a voluntary home visiting program for overburdened first-time families to improve pregnancy and child health and development outcomes. The program targets at-risk pregnant women and families with children from birth to age 3. Home visits are made by a registered nurse, a social worker, graduates of family studies programs, or a paraprofessional supervised by a nurse or social worker. Services are available in 37 percent of counties.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $2.3 million (FY00)

Served: N/A

3–6 ***Kentucky Preschool Program*** supports half-day classroom-based early care and education for 4-year-olds from low-income families and 3- and 4-year-olds with developmental delays or disabilities regardless of income. Families are referred to other services as needed. About 80 percent of eligible 4-year-olds in the state are being served by Head Start or the Preschool Program.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $45.3 million (FY00) ▲

Served: 15,600 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

Other ***School-Based Family Resource and Youth Service Centers*** offer family support to families with children. Center programs are designed around a local needs assessment. Direct services and referrals for families with young children include child care, home visits for new and expectant parents, parent and child education, health services and referrals, literacy tutoring, and adult basic education. Centers are located in schools in which at least 20 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. As of fiscal year 2001, 93 percent of eligible schools are served by a Family Resource or Youth Service Center.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)

Funding: $43 million (FY00) ▲

Family Literacy Grants are provided to school districts, community-based organizations, and other organizations eligible to receive federal adult education funds to support family literacy programs. Programs include components focusing on adults, children, and parent-child interaction, and target families with children under age 18.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $2.3 million (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Passed in spring 2000, the ***Governor's Early Childhood Initiative*** seeks to ensure that all young children in Kentucky are healthy and safe, possess the foundation that will enable school and personal success, and live in strong families that are supported and strengthened within their communities. The initiative supports a range of maternal and child health programs and services, a family support home visiting program (HANDS, see above), and efforts to improve the quality and availability of early care and education services. In addition, it created an Early Childhood Development Authority to oversee the initiative and administer the funding; community councils assess local needs and then apply for seed grants from the Development Authority. A Business Council, made up of business and community leaders, works to promote the involvement of local businesses and local governments in early childhood efforts. The initiative is funded with 25 percent of the state's Phase I tobacco settlement funds, expected to total $56 million over two years, beginning in fiscal year 2001.

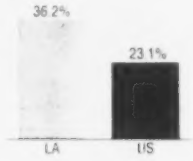
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

LOUISIANA

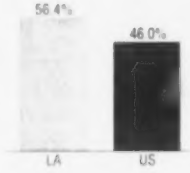
384,628 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 5 (1 is most unequal)

Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)

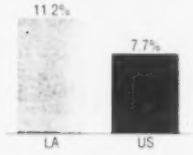


State median income for families with young children

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

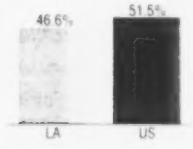
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $2,280

Percent of state median income: 7.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 16.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: LA: 18% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

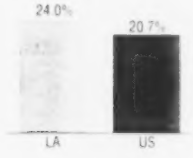
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (LA: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (LA: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $3,156

Percent of federal poverty level: 23.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

LA: 67.8% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

LOUISIANA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Louisiana has more than doubled funding for prekindergarten services since *Map and Track 1998*. The state has also implemented a home visiting program for low-income pregnant women, and continues to support school readiness-focused home visits for at-risk children ages 3 to 6. In addition, the state requires all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Nurse Home Visitation Program*** (New) serves women pregnant with their first child who are at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Based on the research-based Nurse Home Visitation model, registered nurses make home visits beginning in the first 28 weeks of pregnancy.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $429,000 (FY00)
Served: 335 families (FY99)

3–6 ***Model Early Childhood Program*** is a prekindergarten program for children identified as at risk due to poverty or other factors determined by the school district. It is available in all but two districts in the state, and most programs are full-day (6 hours).

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $6.7 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 2,597 children (FY00)

Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) promotes school readiness through home visits to at-risk children ages 3 to 6. Priority is given to children on the waiting lists for Head Start or the Model Early Childhood Program and to those in public housing. Services are provided 30 weeks per year.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $675,000 (FY00)
Served: 1,034 children (FY99)

0–6 None reported

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

The ***Children's Cabinet***, which was reenacted by the governor in 1997, includes representatives from children's agencies, state legislators, and a 37-member Advisory Board. The central 11-member body is responsible for coordinating children's services, and has developed a Children's Budget that reflects spending on children across state agencies.

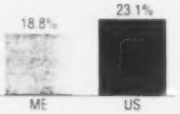
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

MAINE

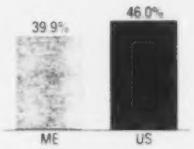
86,009 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 45 (1 is most unequal)

Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)

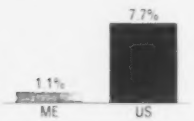


State median income for families with young children

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

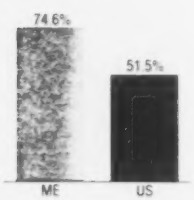
- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,532
Percent of state median income: 16.2%
Percent of federal poverty level: 39.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: ME: 15% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

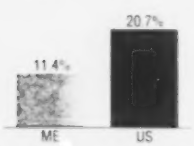
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (ME: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (ME: 200% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)
  Income eligibility limit: $14,724
  Percent of federal poverty level: 107.9%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
ME: 66.8% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

108

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Maine has invested 61 percent more in prekindergarten services by increasing funding for the state's prekindergarten program and its Head Start supplement. The state also continued to support home visiting for first-time parents and will dramatically increase funding for this program in fiscal year 2001, adding enough money from its tobacco settlement funds to be able to offer home visits to all first-time parents.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Healthy Start/Healthy Families*** is a pilot program offering home visits to first-time parents by nurses, social workers, and paraprofessionals to promote better parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect. Home visits are provided on a voluntary basis, as often as needed for at least the first year of the child's life.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $600,000 (FY00) ◆ [FY01: $5.4 million]
Served: 600 families (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $2.6 million (FY00)* ▲

Public Prekindergarten Programs provide services for 4-year-olds through public schools. The goal is to offer an early childhood program to children who are not receiving early education through other sources. Programs are typically half-day (2.5 hours) and offered 4 to 5 days per week, in some cases with 4 days of classroom-based services and 1 day of home visits. State prekindergarten is available in 17 percent of school districts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $1.5 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 811 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

The ***Communities for Children Initiative*** seeks to develop a seamless, preventive, community-based service system for children and families. Thirty collaborative Community Leadership Councils define local priorities and assess risks and resources, supported by small planning grants from the state. The state interagency Children's Cabinet helps identify service approaches and outside funding sources and may reallocate state resources to address local priorities. The Children's Cabinet is composed of representatives from the Governor's Office and the state's departments for human services, corrections, education, public safety, mental health, and substance abuse services.

* Some of this funding goes to centers that also provide Early Head Start services.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

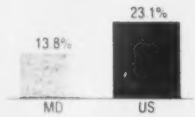
T includes TANF funds

MARYLAND

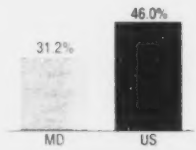
467,056 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 31 *(1 is most unequal)*

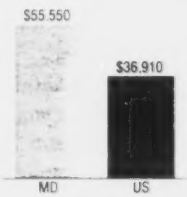
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



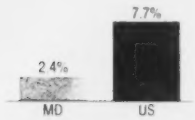
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 15.0%
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

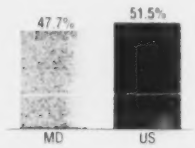
- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,004
Percent of state median income: 9.0%
Percent of federal poverty level: 35.4%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MD: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

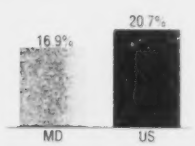
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MD: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MD: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $6,276
Percent of federal poverty level: 46.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:
MD: 75.1% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

110

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

MARYLAND

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Maryland has invested 46 percent more in prekindergarten by expanding its existing program and introducing a Head Start supplement. The state also implemented Healthy Families Maryland with TANF funds, while funding for the state's Family Support Centers remained level. In January 2001, a new program that supports school-based or school-linked early care and education services will become operational, with a budget of $7 million for the initial year.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Family Support Centers*** offer center- and home-based preventive family support services to assist parents with children from birth to age 3 in high-risk communities. Services include parent education, peer support, recreational activities, child care, infant and child activities to promote healthy development, literacy, health education, and referrals to other services. Centers are available in 79 percent of jurisdictions.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5.4 million (FY00) T ◆
Served: 2,771 children 0–3; 3,663 families (FY99)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $2.5 million (FY00)

Extended Elementary Education Program offers child development and parent education services for at-risk 4-year-olds and their families in low-income school districts. Risk criteria vary by individual district. Classroom services are offered in most districts for half days (2.5 hours).

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $19.3 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 11,000 children (FY99)

0–6 ***Healthy Families Maryland*** (New) funds programs for children from birth to age 5 and their families following the Healthy Families America model. Based on funding availability, some jurisdictions target high-risk populations and some offer universal services. Programs also have discretion in choosing the services they offer; they are not limited to child abuse and neglect prevention. The program is available in 58 percent of the state's jurisdictions.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3.5 million (FY00) T
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Community Partnerships for Children, Youth, and Families promotes comprehensive, preventive, community-based strategies for supporting families with children of all ages. The state Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families is an interagency body that oversees collaborative county planning by Local Management Boards (LMBs). LMBs coordinate a variety of services including after-school programs, home visiting, school-based health centers, and counseling for at-risk and disruptive youth. Some LMBs have an early childhood focus, but it is not required. Of the total $91.7 million fiscal year 2001 budget, 25 percent is from TANF.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change

111

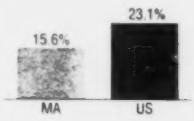
T includes TANF funds

MASSACHUSETTS

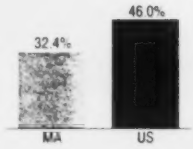
512,515 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 17 (1 is most unequal)

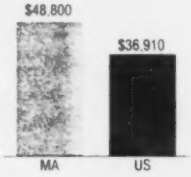
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



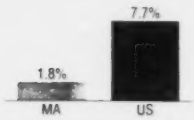
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 10.0%
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $6.00

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

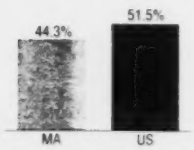
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $6,780

Percent of state median income: 13.9%

Percent of federal poverty level: 47.9%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MA: 13% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

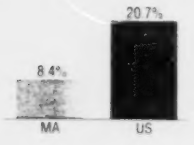
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MA: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MA: 200% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $18,156

Percent of federal poverty level: 133.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

MA: 66.1% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

112

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Massachusetts has expanded the income eligibility level for its prekindergarten program and increased funding by 55 percent since *Map and Track 1998*. The state has also expanded its efforts for infants and toddlers, increasing funding for two programs, adding a new program to strengthen parent-child interaction, and implementing a statewide initiative to assess existing supports and plan for future needs.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting*** offers home visits and parent education to first-time young parents (under age 21), beginning during pregnancy and continuing until children turn age 3. The program seeks to promote positive parenting and to enhance child health and development.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $16.1 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 3,500 families (FY00)

Family Network offers locally-designed services, including parent education, literacy, home visits, parent support groups, play groups, and links to social and health services for pregnant women and families with children from birth to age 3. Nearly half the towns in the state are served.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $6.4 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 24,000 families (FY99)

Parent-Child Home Program (New) is designed to strengthen verbal interaction and educational play between parents and their preschool children. Teaching demonstrators work with families at home for two years, beginning when the child is 18 to 24 months old, modeling reading and other activities with the child.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $2 million (FY00)
Served: N/A

FIRST Steps offers intensive home visits and care coordination in 16 high-risk communities, for pregnant women and infants who are particularly vulnerable to poor health outcomes, developmental delays, or child abuse and neglect.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.5 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 700 families (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $6.9 million (FY00) ◆

Community Partnerships for Children (CPC) offer prekindergarten programs with comprehensive services through local collaboratives of early care and education providers, to 3- and 4-year-olds from working families with incomes up to the state median. At least one-third of the slots statewide must provide full-day (6 hours or more), full-year services; in practice, about half the children served are in full-day programs.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income* ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $93.1 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 21,500 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

Other ***For Families*** (New) provides comprehensive assessment, referral, and linkage to needed services for families leaving TANF due to time-limits; teen parents on TANF who have been sanctioned; and families who fail to recertify for food stamps. Families are served for a year and receive at least three home visits. The program also provides a telephone hotline.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3 million (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Massachusetts Infant-Toddler Services Summit*** is a statewide collaborative project to assess current services for children from birth to age 3 and their families, and to develop a comprehensive plan for the future. Specifically, the initiative seeks to assess gaps and duplication in services, promote high-quality supports from a family-centered perspective, and develop a strategic plan for a comprehensive service system. The project operates out of the State Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and includes representatives from multiple state agencies, universities, community providers, foundations, and advocacy organizations.

* Since the income criteria for eligibility is the state median income or below, the program is open to children from families with moderate incomes as well as low incomes. Children in families receiving TANF or transitioning off of TANF are not eligible if subsidized child care is available.

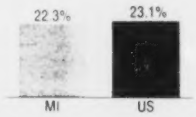
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

MICHIGAN

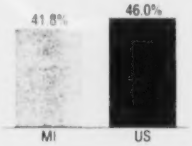
900,173 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 30 (1 is most unequal)

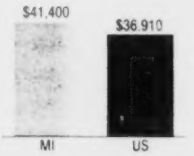
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



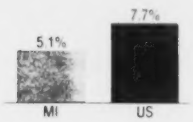
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

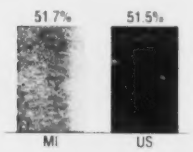
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,508

Percent of state median income: 13.3%

Percent of federal poverty level: 38.9%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MI: 19% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

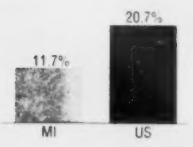
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MI: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MI: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $6,576

Percent of federal poverty level: 48.2%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

MI: 62.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

MICHIGAN

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Michigan implemented two new programs in fiscal year 2000: one provides full-day services for preschoolers enrolled in School Readiness; the other supports parent education for families with young children. Funding for both will increase markedly in their second year of operation. Since *Map and Track 1998*, Michigan has also increased funding to support at-risk families with infants and toddlers, while maintaining level funding for the Michigan School Readiness Program and Infant Mental Health Services.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***0–3 Secondary Prevention Grants*** are designed to promote strong, nurturing families and to prevent child abuse and neglect for at-risk families with children from birth to age 3. Services include home visits, birth screenings, parent education, respite care, and referrals. The program is jointly implemented by the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Education, and the Department of Community Health. Services are available in about 75 percent of counties.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5.3 million (FY00) ▲
Served: N/A

Infant Mental Health Services offers relationship-focused home visits, anticipatory guidance, support, service coordination, and other interventions, including parent-infant psychotherapy, to families with infants at risk of developing mental health problems. Ideally, families are identified during the last trimester of pregnancy or within the first six months after the child is born.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 1,500 children (FY00)

3–6* ***Michigan School Readiness Program*** provides classroom- or home-based services to 4-year-olds at risk of school failure who are not eligible for, or are not being served by, Head Start; more than 50 percent must be low-income. Most programs are half-day (2.5 hours, 4 days per week), although some provide full- or extended-day services.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $67.1 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 21,638 children (FY00)

Full-Day Services (New) is a new initiative that offers competitive grants to Michigan School Readiness and Head Start programs to provide extended-day services (a minimum of 10 hours). Some programs are also expanding to provide services on a full-year basis.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5 million (FY00) [FY01: $20 million]
Served: N/A

0–6 ***Parent Education and Involvement Program*** (New) provides grants to school districts and multi-purpose boards for community programming for families with children from birth to age 5. The goals are to increase parenting skills, promote school readiness, prevent the need for special education services in elementary school, and promote stable families. Services include home visiting, parent group meetings, developmental assessment, and referrals to community resources and high-quality preschool programs.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $700,000 (FY00) [FY01: $45 million]
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Under a 1995 systems reform initiative, ***Putting It Together with Michigan Families***, directors of human services agencies and other stakeholders in all 83 counties have formed Multi-Purpose Collaborative Bodies to devise new ways to improve outcomes for children and families. Most have a work group focused on early childhood service planning and development. At the state level, the PIT Crew interagency group has been formed to share information, coordinate efforts, collaborate on common goals, and recommend strategies for policy and practice. This group—which includes directors from state agencies and representatives of individual programs—meets regularly, and has recently begun to develop a shared vision for early childhood services and supports.

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* *Child Care Expulsion Prevention Pilots*, reported in *Map and Track 1998*, no longer receive state funds; they are now funded through the Child Care and Development Fund. The program has broadened its target age group from ages 3 to 5, to birth to age 5.

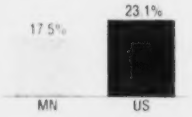
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

MINNESOTA

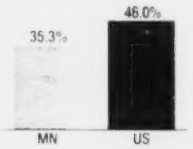
423,632 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 36 (1 is most unequal)

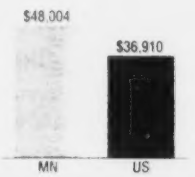
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



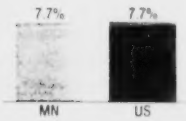
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 34.0%*
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $1,440

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**

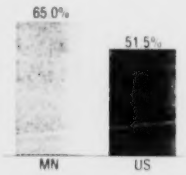
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $9,468

Percent of state median income: N/A

Percent of federal poverty level: N/A

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MN: 6% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

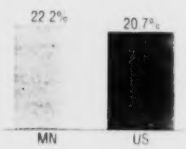
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MN: 280% FPL)***
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MN: 275% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $37,538

Percent of federal poverty level: 275.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

MN: 48.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

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* This is an average; the percent varies by earnings.

** Minnesota provides a cash grant that combines TANF and food stamp benefits; $9,468 is the total amount.

*** Children below age 2 are covered up to 280% FPL.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Minnesota continues to fund a variety of child development and family support services for young children and their families, many of which have universal eligibility. Funding levels have not changed significantly since *Map and Track 1998*; only the Early Childhood Family Education program has had an increase. The state has initiated a systems-development effort to improve and integrate early care and education services to promote school readiness.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Head Start Supplement***: $1 million (FY00) ◆

Minnesota Healthy Beginnings Home Visiting offers expectant and new parents information on parenting, infant growth and development, and health and safety; support for strengthening parenting; and links to community resources. Services are provided through local collaboratives that include public health, early childhood family education, and community agencies. Six counties are served.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $870,000 (FY00) ◆
Served: N/A

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $17.4 million (FY00) ◆

School Readiness supports flexible child development programming and funds more than 20 types of services, such as prekindergarten, kindergarten preparation, home visits, summer programs, and links to family literacy programs. Services offered depend on community need, but all target 3 1/2- and 4-year-olds and their families to promote school readiness. Although open to all children, those with greatest need are given priority. The program is available in 99 percent of school districts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $10.4 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 44,889 children, includes all services (FY99)

Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening screens 3 1/2- to 4-year-olds to address conditions interfering with young children's health, growth, development, and learning. Results are used to prioritize children for services through School Readiness (see above). Children must be screened before they can enroll in public school.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $2.5 million (FY00)
Served: 61,000 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Early Childhood Family Education*** offers parent-child activities, parent education groups, play and learning for children, family events, home visits, health and developmental screenings, and information about community resources to families with children from birth to age 5. The core service is ongoing classes for parents and their children, which meet a minimum of 1.5 hours per week.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $20.8 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 305,000 parents and children (FY00)

Home Visiting to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect provides assessments, home visits, and referrals to needed services to families at risk of child abuse or neglect, from the prenatal stage until children turn age 6. The state provides funds to local community health boards for five years to build infrastructure and enhance local service delivery. Fifteen projects serve 21 percent of counties and one reservation.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $500,000 (FY00) ▼
Served: 800 families (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Children, Families & Learning to develop a plan by January 2001 for improving and integrating early care and education services. The plan, ***No Better Time: Starting Early for School Success***, identifies outcomes that focus on three components of school readiness: (1) readiness in the child; (2) schools' readiness for children; and (3) relevant family and community supports. An early childhood workgroup is developing specific proposals with input from a broad range of stakeholders.

Related Initiatives

The state interagency ***Children's Cabinet*** develops policies and strategies to meet the state's benchmarks for children (Minnesota Milestones).

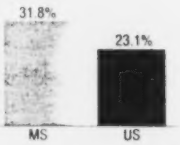
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

MISSISSIPPI

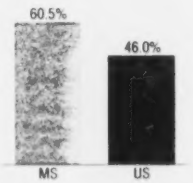
245,888 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 16 (1 is most unequal)

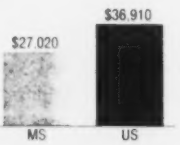
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



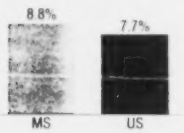
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

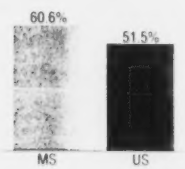
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $2,040

Percent of state median income: 7.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 14.4%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MS: 10% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

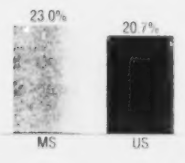
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MS: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MS: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $5,484

Percent of federal poverty level: 40.2%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

MS: 67.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

MISSISSIPPI

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

An Early Childhood Task Force was created in 1999 to make recommendations to the legislature, which subsequently accepted the task force's recommendation to create an Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council, but rejected proposed legislation to create a pilot prekindergarten program. As a result, Mississippi funds no child development or family support programs for preschool-aged children. The state requires all school districts to offer full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 None reported.

Other ***Reading Sufficiency*** provides grants, on a competitive basis, to low-performing school districts to fund activities and interventions to improve reading skills among students from kindergarten through third grade. Funded activities include parent-family education centers, prekindergarten programs, extended day services, assessment, and professional development. The Department of Education provides training and technical assistance to individual districts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $1.5 million (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Created by legislation in 1999, the ***Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council*** includes all state agencies that serve young children (the departments for human services, education, health, and mental health) as well as representatives from higher education and educational television, and other stakeholders. The council's purpose is to improve the quality of services, to better coordinate efforts across state agencies, and to reduce duplication. Preliminary efforts have been made to coordinate and blend funds across the state's departments for education, human services, and health. The council is required to publish an annual report on the status of programs that serve young children for the legislature and public.

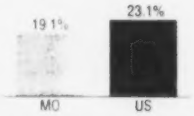
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

MISSOURI

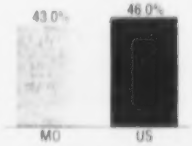
461,607 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 34 (1 is most unequal)

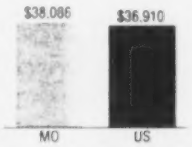
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



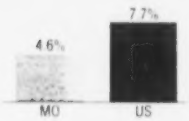
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

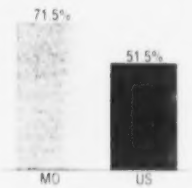
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,504

Percent of state median income: 9.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 24.8%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MO: 19% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

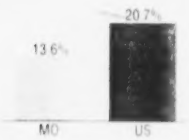
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MO: 300% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MO: 300% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $13,650

Percent of federal poverty level: 100.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

MO: 73.7% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

MISSOURI

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Missouri passed a major piece of early childhood legislation, the Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care Fund, in 1998. This initiative, which seeks to make quality early care and education services more accessible, created a prekindergarten program for 3- and 4-year-olds and expands services for infants and toddlers. Funding for Parents as Teachers remained at the level reported in *Map and Track 1998*.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Head Start Supplement**** (New): $5 million (FY00) **T**

3–6 ***Missouri Preschool Project**** (New) offers grants on a competitive basis to schools, both public and nonpublic, to provide prekindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. Most programs are open to all children in the district; some programs give priority to low-income or special-needs children.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $11 million (FY00)
Served: 3,100 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Parents as Teachers*** offers home visits, parent education, developmental screenings for children, and referrals to needed services to all families with children from birth to age 5. All school districts are required to provide Parents as Teachers, which is now a national model. Specialized approaches have been developed to serve high-needs families (e.g., families headed by teen parents, homeless families).

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $27.2 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 154,486 families (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care Fund*** expands services for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start; provides support for low-income families who care for children under age 3 at home; created the Missouri Preschool Project for 3- and 4-year olds; and works to improve the overall quality of care. In addition to the $16 million reported above (Early Head Start supplement, Preschool Project), another $14 million was allocated for fiscal year 2000. The initiative is supported primarily by riverboat gaming fees, supplemented by TANF funds.

Related Initiatives

The state ***Family Investment Trust***, regional ***Community Partnerships***, and local ***Caring Communities*** are interagency collaboratives that develop integrated service strategies for helping families.

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* The Early Head Start Supplement and the Missouri Preschool Project are funded by the Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care Fund described under the Early Childhood Systems Development heading.

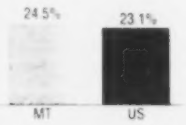
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change **T** includes TANF funds

MONTANA

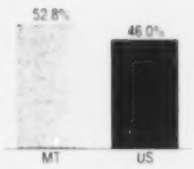
75,940 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 27 (1 is most unequal)

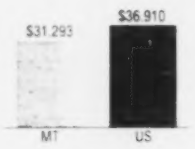
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



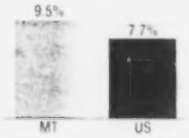
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

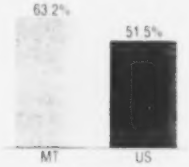
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,616

Percent of state median income: 17.9%

Percent of federal poverty level: 39.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MT: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

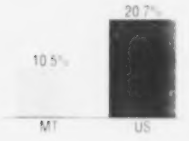
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (MT: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (MT: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $10,000

Percent of federal poverty level: 73.3%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL

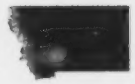
MT: 52.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

MONTANA



State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Montana continues to support home visiting and other services to prevent child abuse and neglect, at the same funding levels as reported in *Map and Track 1998*. The state supports no other child development or family support programs.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 ***Partnership to Strengthen Families*** provides parent education to prevent child abuse and neglect in families with children from birth to age 6. Ninety percent of the services are home visiting, and the remainder consist of center-based parenting education classes. Services are available in 19 high-risk communities.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $1.4 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 1,600 children (FY00)

Public Health Home Visiting services, provided by county health departments, are available to at-risk pregnant women and parents with children from birth to age 5 who are identified through referrals from hospitals, private providers, and other public health programs, or through self-referral. Families in need receive care coordination services designed to prevent infant mortality and child abuse and neglect.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $100,000 (FY00) ◆

Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged

☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The statewide ***Montana Early Childhood Future Search*** conference, held in April 2000, brought together diverse stakeholders to develop a strategic plan to inform a legislative agenda and advocacy efforts addressing the needs of young children and their families. Since then, a continuity team that includes representatives from all early childhood entities has met on a monthly basis. At the local level, communities are encouraged to enhance collaboration in early childhood services by holding their own "future search" meetings.

Related Initiatives

Established in 1993, the ***Interagency Coordinating Council on Prevention*** focuses on coordination of existing programs. The council is funded by participating agencies' budgets, and brings together state-level department heads to discuss and enhance coordination in areas including education, child abuse, ready-to-work (for teens), substance abuse, violence, and pregnancy prevention.

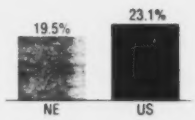
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NEBRASKA

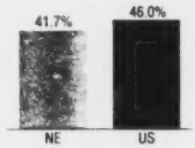
162,202 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 42 (1 is most unequal)

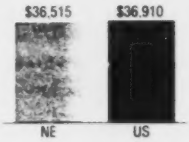
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



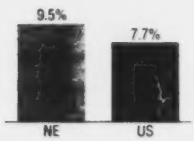
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit*—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $1,440

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

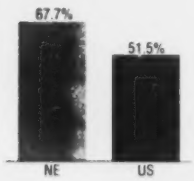
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,368

Percent of state median income: 12.0%

Percent of federal poverty level: 30.9%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NE: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

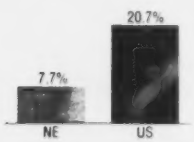
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NE: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NE: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $5,880

Percent of federal poverty level: 43.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

NE: 50.2% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

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* For taxpayers with a federal adjusted gross income of $29,000 or less.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

NEBRASKA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Nebraska has continued to provide state funds for community-designed early childhood programs at the same level as reported in *Map and Track 1998*, but does not support any other child development or family support programs. The state continues to offer technical assistance to support community collaboration in the delivery of services to young children and their families.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 ***Early Childhood Project*** funds school districts and community partners (including Head Start) to establish early childhood programs that meet identified community needs related to child development and parent education.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $500,000 (FY00) ◆

Served: 275 children (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Good Beginnings helps community partners collaborate to improve the delivery of health, education, and social services to children from birth to age 6 and their families, to promote child health, enhance parenting skills, improve children's readiness for school, and reduce child abuse and neglect. The state offers technical assistance and resources (e.g., parent-education materials) to communities.

Related Initiatives

The ***Health and Human Services System*** is overseen by the state interagency Children and Family Council, and consolidates the operations of five state agencies. Through comprehensive local planning and the changing or merging of local programs, it is promoting the development of community networks that work to achieve improved outcomes for children and families.

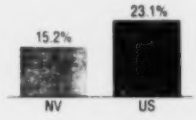
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NEVADA

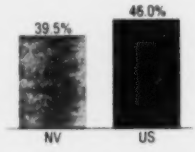
145,284 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 39 (1 is most unequal)

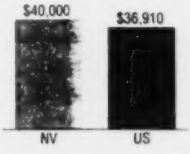
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



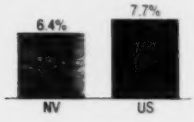
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

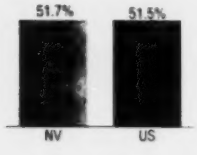
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,176

Percent of state median income: 10.4%

Percent of federal poverty level: 29.5%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NV: 6% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

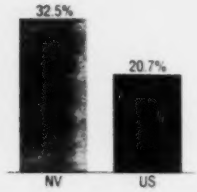
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NV: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NV: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $12,240

Percent of federal poverty level: 89.7%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

NV: 45.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Nevada has established a new prekindergarten program "on wheels" to provide early childhood services to children in remote communities. However, overall support for child development and family support services fell, as funding for the state's infant development program and Even Start supplement were cut in half, while funding for Family Resource Centers remained level.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Family to Family Connection*** offers services to enhance child growth and development to all parents with children from birth to age 1. Center-based services are provided in all counties; home visiting has been reduced due to funding cuts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $2.3 million (FY00) ▼
Served: 13,793 children (FY99)

3–6 ***Classroom on Wheels*** (New) provides early childhood services to low-income children ages 3 to 6 and their parents in their neighborhoods. The two-hour sessions are offered from 2 to 4 times per week, provided by several different agencies. There are no uniform standards across providers; some providers offer comprehensive services. There are 15 buses in service, and the program is staffed by Americorps volunteers to reduce costs.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $150,000 (FY00)
Served: 654 children (FY99)

0–6 ***Even Start Supplement***: $500,000 (FY00) ▼

Other ***Family Resource Centers*** provide a variety of services for families in 38 at-risk communities, in accordance with local priorities. Centers perform a needs assessment each year and tailor their services to meet identified needs; approximately one-quarter of these services target children from birth to age 6. Centers are required to have a neighborhood council, and a statewide coordinator works with the two regional governing boards which oversee the centers.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.4 million (FY00) ◆

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Relative Initiatives

Community Connections, which is housed in the Nevada Department of Human Services, was established in 1999 legislation to provide a state-level administrative framework to oversee "flow-through dollars" for community programs. It is staffed with administrators from community-level efforts such as Family to Family Connection, Family Resource Centers, Community Services Block Grant, and the Head Start-State Collaboration Office.

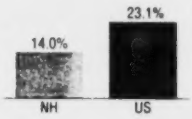
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NEW HAMPSHIRE

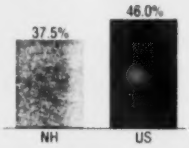
100,625 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 35 (1 is most unequal)

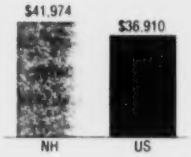
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



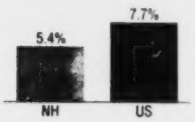
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

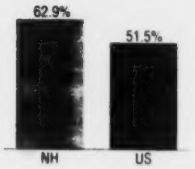
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $7,200

Percent of state median income: 17.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 50.9%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NH: 9% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

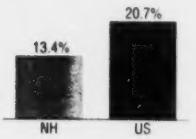
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NH: 300% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NH: 300% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $8,235

Percent of federal poverty level: 60.3%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

NH: 35.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

126

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, New Hampshire has increased funding for home visiting services for infants and toddlers, and maintained its Head Start supplement. School districts are not required to provide kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Home Visiting*** serves women receiving (or at risk of receiving) public assistance who are pregnant or have children up to age 2, to improve birth outcomes and child health and safety, and to help families achieve life goals such as education and work. A total of three home visiting programs, all of which use registered nurses to conduct visits, are coordinated by the public health department.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $150,000 (FY00) T ▲

Served: N/A

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $230,000 (FY00) ◆

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☑ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Incentive Fund Program awards competitive grants to cities and towns to promote prevention and family support programs. Localities have wide discretion in the use of funds, and programs range from early education and family support, to adolescent pregnancy prevention and recreation. Of the 208 programs funded from the $2.3 million program budget in fiscal year 2000, 30 percent offered family support services.

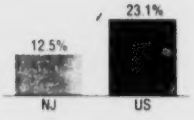
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NEW JERSEY

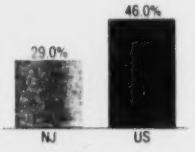
682,319 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 25 (1 is most unequal)

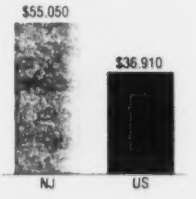
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



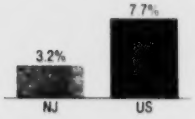
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 10.0%
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

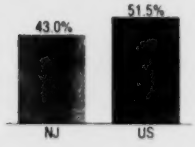
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,088

Percent of state median income: 9.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 36.0%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NJ: 10% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

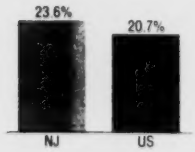
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NJ: 350% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NJ: 350% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $6,396

Percent of federal poverty level: 46.9%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

NJ: 78.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

130

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, New Jersey has continued to fund early education and other early childhood programs for children ages 3 to 6, at essentially the same level. The state does not fund child development or family support programs for infants and toddlers.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $1.4 million (FY00) ◆

Early Childhood Program Aid supports full-day kindergarten, half-day prekindergarten (extending to full-day in 2000–01), and other early childhood programs in 128 school districts in which at least 20 percent of students are low-income. Of these districts, 30 provide full-day prekindergarten for all 3- and 4-year-olds. Funds may be used for early childhood instruction, health and social services, parent involvement, transition services, and early childhood program facilities.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)

Funding: $313 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 30,000 children in 30 districts (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

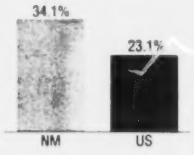
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NEW MEXICO

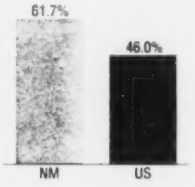
179,276 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 4 (1 is most unequal)

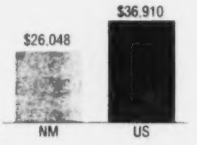
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



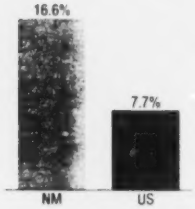
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $960*

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

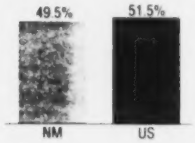
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,268

Percent of state median income: 20.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 37.2%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NM: 13% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

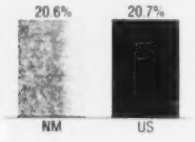
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NM: 235% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NM: 235% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $8,424

Percent of federal poverty level: 61.7%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL: NM: 44.7% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

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* $960 for 2 dependents; $1,200 for 3 or more dependents.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

New Mexico implemented a Head Start supplement for the first time in fiscal year 1999. Since *Map and Track 1998*, the state's investment in child development services for children from birth to age 5 has increased, while funding for family support for teen parents has remained level.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***GRADS*** offers family support, parent education, child health, child care, and child development services to pregnant and parenting teens and their children in 35 schools. The goal of the program is to support teen parents in graduating from high school, becoming good parents, and attaining economic self-sufficiency.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $500,000 (FY00) ◆

Served: 898 teen parents (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $6 million (FY00)

0–6 ***Child Development Program*** funds early care and education services for children from birth to age 5 and their families. Programs are collaboratively planned in communities to meet service gaps, and they may include prekindergarten, home visiting, programs for infants of teen parents, and provider resource and support programs.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $1.3 million (FY00) ▲

Served: 1,900 children (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☑ Encouraged

☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

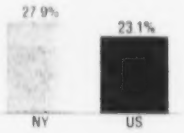
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NEW YORK

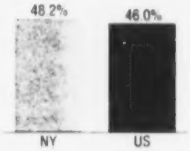
1,601,942 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 2 (1 is most unequal)

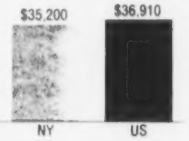
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



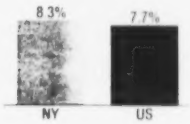
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 22.5%
- ☑ Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: $1,440

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

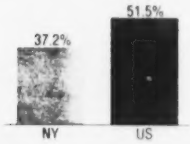
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $6,924

Percent of state median income: 19.7%

Percent of federal poverty level: 48.9%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NY: 19% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

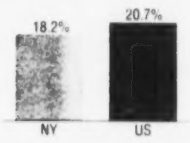
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL*

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NY: 230% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NY: 230% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,992

Percent of federal poverty level: 58.5%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

NY: 59.8% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

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* Co-payment rates vary by county.

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

NEW YORK

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

New York is gradually phasing in its Universal Prekindergarten program; school districts choose whether to participate, and all districts should be eligible by the 2001–2002 school year. The state continues to fund its "Experimental" Prekindergarten Program, which has served low-income preschoolers for nearly 35 years. Since *Map and Track 1998*, New York has added state and TANF funds to support its Healthy Families home visiting program.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Universal Prekindergarten*** is gradually being phased in to offer half- or full-day early education services to 4-year-olds throughout the state. All school districts will be eligible to participate, if they choose to do so, by the 2001–2002 school year; 23 percent of districts are participating in 2000–2001 (including New York City). During the phase-in period, priority is being given to economically disadvantaged children. Districts are required to contract at least 10 percent of the slots to community-based early care and education providers; in practice, the percentage is generally higher. In the 1999–2000 school year, the first year of the program's implementation, about 13 percent of the state's 4-year-olds were served.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $89.3 million (FY00)
Served: 27,412 children (FY00)

Experimental Prekindergarten offers comprehensive early education services to low-income 3- and 4-year-olds, including the provision of social, health, and nutrition services; the program also has a parent involvement component. About 20 percent of programs are full-day (6 hours). The program has been available in 99 school districts, 14 percent of the state's total, since its inception in 1966.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $50.2 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 19,600 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Program*** offers systematic assessment of pregnant women and families with infants under 3 months for risks that may lead to child abuse and poor health or development outcomes. Families at high risk are offered long-term home visiting services until the child turns age 5 or enters Head Start. Services are available in 16 percent of counties in the state. Ninety percent of the funding comes from TANF.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $16.4 million (FY00) T ▲
Served: 3,000 families (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:*
☑ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Partners for Children, a state-level public/private partnership focused on improving outcomes for children of all ages, provides community-level partnerships with technical assistance, models for measuring outcomes, information about available funding streams, and examples of successful community partnerships. In the spring of 2000, the partnership established a Success by 6 Task Force to focus on early childhood issues. Its main activities include reaching consensus on a list of "building blocks" for successful early childhood development, increasing public awareness about these issues, and developing a blueprint for cross-system action by members of the task force as well as the larger partnership.

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* Transition efforts are required for Universal Prekindergarten and encouraged for Experimental Prekindergarten.

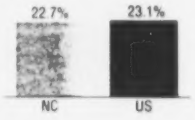
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NORTH CAROLINA

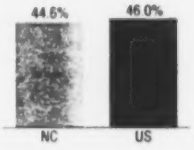
588,322 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 18 (1 is most unequal)

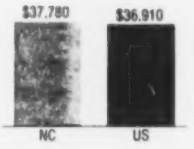
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



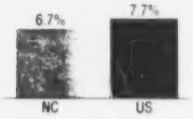
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

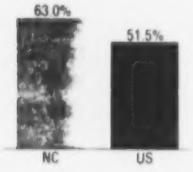
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,264

Percent of state median income: 8.6%

Percent of federal poverty level: 23.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: NC: 16% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

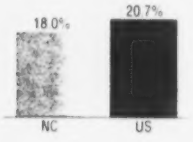
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (NC: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (NC: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,608

Percent of federal poverty level: 55.7%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

NC: 62.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

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Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

NORTH CAROLINA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, North Carolina has expanded its investment in the Smart Start initiative, which supports a variety of programs for children from birth to age 6. The state increased funding for the initiative by 138 percent, and implemented it in all counties. In addition, the state introduced an Early Head Start supplement, but reduced funding for Family Resource Centers.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Head Start Supplement*** (New): $606,000 (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***:* $3.9 million (FY00)

0–6 ***Smart Start*** (see below)

Family Resource Centers support families with children from birth to age 8, by providing a one-stop source for family services which may be provided through information and referral, on-site, or home-based strategies. Direct services, which are prevention-oriented and unique to each community, may focus on child health and development, family recreation, parenting, transportation, and adult education and employment.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)

Funding: $1.7 million (FY00) ▼

Served: 1,300 children (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Smart Start is a comprehensive public/private initiative to help North Carolina children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Now implemented in all counties, it supports a variety of services for children from birth to age 6, including prekindergarten, higher quality child care, more child care spaces, better trained child care teachers, an expansion of Head Start, health screening, and family support services. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, a public/private corporation, provides state-level leadership for the initiative, sets statewide benchmarks for young children and families, and makes grants to county or multi-county collaboratives. The collaboratives assess community early childhood needs, and design comprehensive plans to improve and integrate services. These plans are subject to state approval. The initiative received $219 million in state funds in fiscal year 2000.

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* $3.8 million was allocated as part of the Smart Start initiative described under the Early Childhood Systems Development heading.

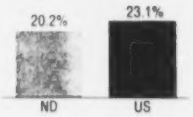
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

NORTH DAKOTA

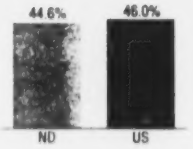
52,437 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 48 (1 is most unequal)

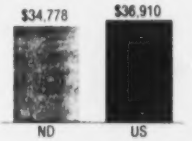
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



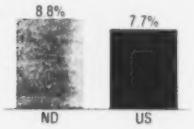
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

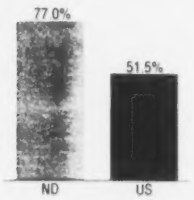
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,484

Percent of state median income: 15.8%

Percent of federal poverty level: 38.8%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Perce[illegible]w-income young children w[illegible]se parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: ND: 12% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

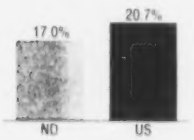
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (ND: 140% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (ND: 140% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $10,140

Percent of federal poverty level: 74.3%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

ND: 38.6% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

North Dakota implemented new Early Head Start and Head Start supplements in fiscal year 2000 using TANF funds, but funding for the Children's Services Coordinating Committees has dropped since *Map and Track 1998*.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Head Start Supplement*** (New): $90,000 (FY00) **T**

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $430,000 (FY00) **T**

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The state ***Children's Services Coordinating Committee*** (see below) is promoting a five-year comprehensive early care and education plan that was drafted at the North Dakota Early Care and Education Summit held in fall 2000. The resulting document will be used to inform community leaders and state legislators about priority concerns facing North Dakota's families.

Related Initiatives

Regional and tribal ***Children's Services Coordinating Committees*** (CSCCs)—composed of representatives from state agencies, Head Start, and the child care community, as well as other stakeholders—set local priorities for programming and cross-system collaboration for children and families. Leadership and technical assistance is provided to these bodies by the state-level Children's Services Coordinating Committee, which includes representatives from the Governor's Office, the state Supreme Court, the Indian Affairs Commission, and state agencies that serve children, families, and communities. State- and local-level CSCC activities were supported by $3.75 million in state funds in fiscal year 2000.

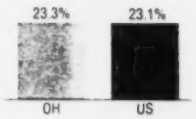
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change **T** includes TANF funds

OHIO

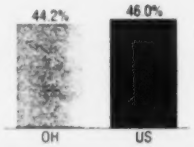
948,773 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 23 (1 is most unequal)

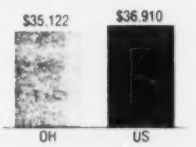
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



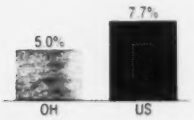
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

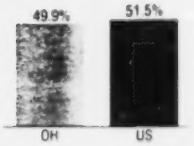
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,476

Percent of state median income: 12.7%

Percent of federal poverty level: 31.6%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: OH: 10% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

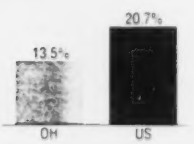
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (OH: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (OH: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $11,664

Percent of federal poverty level: 85.5%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

OH: 53.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Ohio has dramatically increased funding for Early Start and introduced a universal home visiting program for first-time and teen parents. The state has continued to support early education services, through a Head Start supplement and the Public Preschool Program, at approximately the same funding level. A new Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative will be funded at $1.4 million beginning in fiscal year 2001.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Start*** links families with infants and toddlers at risk of abuse, neglect, or developmental delays to health, education, and social services. It also offers preventive services such as home visiting and parenting education, based on individualized family service plans. The program has been expanded to serve TANF families in all counties.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $34 million (FY00) T ▲
Served: 11,849 families (FY99)

Welcome Home (New) is a home visiting program for first-time and teen parents of newborns. All eligible families can receive a single home visit by a registered nurse who provides health and developmental information as well as community referrals for the parent and/or child.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $5.9 million (FY00)
Served: 21,762 families (FY99)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $97 million (FY00) ◆

Public Preschool Program serves 3- and 4-year-olds from families living near poverty (below 185 percent of the federal poverty level). Following the Head Start model, the program provides comprehensive services designed to promote school readiness and social competence. Most preschool classes are half-day (2.5 hours) and part-year, but some centers provide full-day (5 hours), full-year comprehensive services.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $19.1 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 7,694 children (FY99)

0–6 None reported.

Other ***School Readiness Resource Centers*** offer school-linked health, social, and family support services to families with children ages 3 to 18. Targeted programming is available for families with young children, such as child care, parenting education, and maternal and child health services. Service plans are designed by County Family and Children First Councils in partnership with school districts, and are subject to state approval.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5 million (FY00) ◆

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Family and Children First Initiative improves access to, and delivery of, education, health, and social services for children and families. The initiative's goals for children—from the prenatal stage to adulthood—are spelled out in Ohio's Commitments to Child Well-Being. County Councils—composed of families, service providers, and public officials—in all 88 counties conduct comprehensive planning and manage specific programs for children and families. They receive funding and technical assistance from the state interagency Cabinet Council, which sets overall policy for children and families in the state and directs agency resources to the County Councils. The Cabinet Council is working with the governor to develop a biennial children's budget that will provide a comprehensive perspective on the state's investments in child well-being. In fiscal year 2000, the state invested $77.8 million in the initiative, including $76 million in program funds and $1.8 million in administrative support for County Councils.

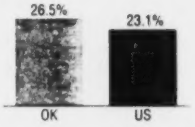
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

OKLAHOMA

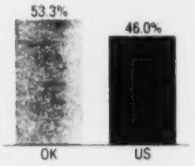
250,605 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 19 (1 is most unequal)

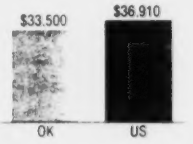
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



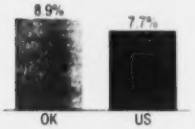
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

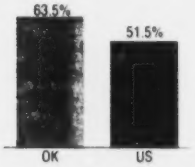
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,504

Percent of state median income: 10.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 24.8%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: OK: 16% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

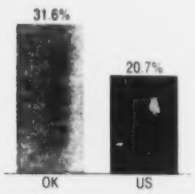
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (OK: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (OK: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $5,112

Percent of federal poverty level: 37.5%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

OK: 69.0% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

OKLAHOMA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Oklahoma has significantly expanded the availability of prekindergarten services, adopting universal eligibility for its Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program and dramatically increasing funding. In addition, the state nearly tripled funding for its nurse home visiting program; other child development and family support programs received modest increases or level funding.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Head Start Supplement***: $1 million (FY00) ◆

Children First seeks to promote maternal and child health and positive child and family development outcomes. Public health nurses provide home visits to first-time mothers who are low-income or lack social support, from the prenatal stage until children turn age 2.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $15 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 3,458 families (FY99)

Parents as Teachers (PAT) offers monthly home visits, parent meetings, developmental screenings for children, and referrals to needed services to families with children from birth to age 3. Although the program targets families with academically at-risk children, all families with children from birth to age 3 residing in school districts that offer PAT are eligible. Programs are available in 32 percent of school districts.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $2.9 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 9,000 children (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $3.3 million (FY00) ▲

Early Childhood Four-Year-Old Program offers classroom-based prekindergarten to 4-year-olds in over 80 percent of school districts in the state, on a first-come, first-served basis. Legislation passed in 1998 expanded eligibility from Head Start-eligible to all 4-year-olds. The program currently serves about half the 4-year-olds in the state, and nearly 40 percent of children served are in full-day (6 hours) programs.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $48 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 20,370 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Child Guidance Program*** seeks to promote optimal development, behavior, and interaction for families with children. Two types of services target families with children from birth to age 6: child development and parent education; and speech, language, and audiology. Behavioral health services target children from birth to age 18.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $7.8 million (FY00)
Served: 9,893 children (FY00)

Community-Based Family Resource Programs offer parent education and support, home visits, child development screening and assessment, links to community resources, and other preventive services to at-risk families to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Services begin prenatally or at birth and continue until children turn age 5, as necessary.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $2.7 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 3,113 families; 2,634 children (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

The state ***Commission on Children and Youth's Planning and Coordination Council*** encourages service providers and citizens to work together in communities to coordinate services for children and families. Thirty-five District Planning Boards and eight Regional Boards identify goals, create five-year plans, and devise collaborative service strategies.

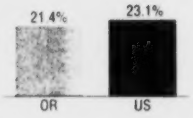
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

OREGON

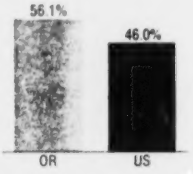
272,821 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 9 (1 is most unequal)

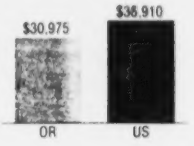
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



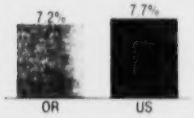
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $6.50

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

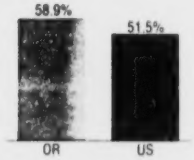
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,520

Percent of state median income: 17.8%

Percent of federal poverty level: 39.0%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: OR: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

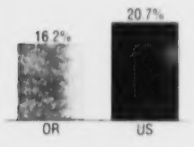
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (OR: 170% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (OR: 170% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $13,650

Percent of federal poverty level: 100.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

OR: 44.4% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Oregon has increased funding for prekindergarten by 45 percent, serving close to half of 3- and 4-year-olds living at or below the poverty level, and nearly doubled its investment in home visiting services through Healthy Start and Babies First. The state also implemented a new pilot violence prevention program for kindergarteners, and it continues to support interagency collaboration and community planning in the design and delivery of services for families with young children.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Babies First*** is a home visiting program that offers screening, health education, family support, parenting information, referrals, and follow-up case management. Nurses deliver services to families with at-risk infants and children up to age 4 in all 36 counties.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $615,219 (FY00) ▲
Served: 8,805 individuals (FY99)

3–6 ***Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten*** offers half-day classes and comprehensive services to 3- and 4-year-olds from families at or below the poverty level. All providers, which include Head Start, public schools, community colleges, universities, and larger nonprofit child care centers, must follow Head Start performance standards. Forty-seven percent of eligible children in the state were served during the 1999–2000 school year.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $22.9 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 3,064 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Healthy Start*** offers family needs assessments and voluntary home visits to families after the birth of their first child until the child turns age 5 in half of Oregon's counties. Services are designed to promote children's healthy growth and development and school readiness, as well as to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $6.2 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 8,458 families (FY99)

First Step (New) is a pilot violence prevention program aimed at correcting behavioral problems among kindergarteners identified as at risk for school failure due to behavior. Professionals address behavioral problems, as well as the child's relationship with parents and teachers.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $500,000 (FY00)
Served: N/A

Together for Children offers parent education classes, home visits, and family support services to all families who reside in the three counties (8 percent of the total) where it is offered.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $287,500 (FY00) ◆
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☑ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***State Commission on Children and Families*** sets guidelines for the planning, coordination, and delivery of services by local county commissions, with the goal of fostering interagency collaboration among programs for children from birth to age 18 and their families. The State Commission provides counties with training, technical support, and staff funds, while local commissions facilitate the development of a local Coordinated Community Plan, which includes an early childhood plan for children prenatally to age 8. Localities have wide discretion in implementation, but they must address outcomes of school readiness, immunizations, and infant and toddler development. All but 8 percent of the $37 million State Commission budget in fiscal year 2000 was released to counties, including a $4 million early childhood grant stream entitled "Great Start." Great Start provides flexible funds to support community efforts for children from birth to age 6 in areas that include child care, health care, mental health services, parent education, and family support.

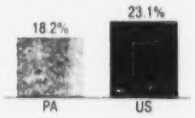
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

PENNSYLVANIA

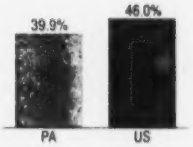
950,528 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 26 (1 is most unequal)

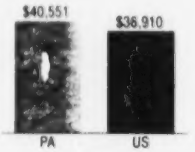
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



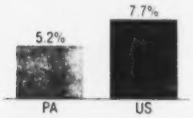
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

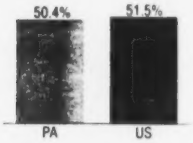
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,836

Percent of state median income: 11.9%

Percent of federal poverty level: 34.2%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: PA: 15% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

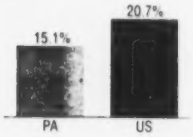
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (PA: 235% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (PA: 235% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $9,648

Percent of federal poverty level: 70.7%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

PA: 69.9% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Pennsylvania has continued to support county-level planning and coordination of services for young children. As a part of this effort, the state significantly increased its investment in Family Centers, but does not fund any other child development or family support programs for young children and their families; however, some 4-year-olds are served with state education aid.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.*

0–6 ***Family Centers*** are the centerpiece of Family Service System Reform (see below), and offer integrated early childhood services and referrals with a focus on families with children from birth to age 8. All centers are required to collaborate with a state adult literacy program, and some serve entire families, including children of all ages. Services offered at the 48 centers vary according to community priorities, which are established by Family Center Boards.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)

Funding: $3 million (FY00) ▲

Served: 5,200 families; 8,800 children (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Family Service System Reform supports comprehensive planning by collaborative county boards, which assess local needs, identify priorities and goals, and design integrated service strategies to address them. The state requires county collaboratives to achieve improved family outcomes, including specific early childhood outcomes related to prenatal and children's health and school readiness. The Statewide Collaborative Board, composed of about 25 state and local representatives, manages the initiative and provides technical assistance to the local sites. Seventy-five percent of Pennsylvania's counties have engaged in some level of collaboration under this initiative. Family Centers are strategically central to accomplishing the goals of the initiative. In fiscal year 2000, the state supported the initiative with $4 million.

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* *Education Aid For Four-Year-Olds* allows school districts to use aid provided for grades K–12 to serve 4-year-olds in kindergarten programs.

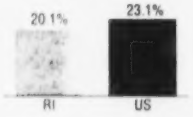
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

RHODE ISLAND

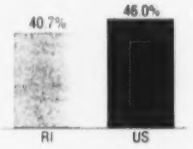
68,517 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 7 (1 is most unequal)

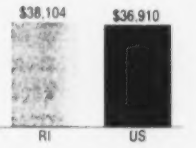
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



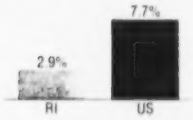
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $5.65

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

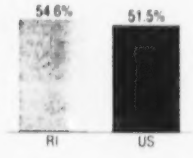
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $6,648

Percent of state median income: 17.4%

Percent of federal poverty level: 47.0%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: RI: 15% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

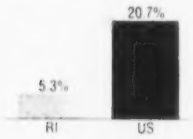
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (RI: 250% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (RI: 250% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $26,333

Percent of federal poverty level: 192.9%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

RI: 88.6% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

In 1998, Rhode Island enacted the Starting Right initiative designed to expand and improve early care and education services across the state. In addition, since *Map and Track 1998*, the state has increased funding for the Early Childhood Investment Fund by 75 percent and maintained funding for a Head Start supplement. The state continues to support other child development and family support services delivered through family centers and home visits.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Starting Points Family Centers*** offer family-centered services to families with children from birth to age 3 (e.g., early care and education, health services, family support, and parent education). Including the Starting Points sites, nearly 30 percent of the school districts in the state have Child Opportunity Zones (COZ) Family Centers, offering school-linked comprehensive services, information and referrals, and support to families with children of all ages. Centers are located in school districts with significant portions of low-income residents; within those districts, all families are eligible for services.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $400,000 (FY00) ◆
Served: N/A

Family Outreach Program is a home visiting program that provides developmental screening, home assessments, connection to community services, and help with child development for about one-third of all families with new babies each year. The program also provides nurses, social workers, and trained parent visitors for expectant mothers; these representatives serve as neighborhood follow-up staff for newborn screening, early intervention, lead poisoning, and immunization programs. Newborn screening is available to all families, but services target those at risk.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $225,000 (FY00) ◆
Served: 8,527 families (FY00)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $2 million (FY00) ◆

0–6 ***Early Childhood Investment Fund*** provides state aid to school districts to design early childhood services for children from birth to age 10 and their families, such as prekindergarten, full-day kindergarten, before- and after-school care, parent education, and family support. Districts decide what services to offer based on local needs; eligibility is locally determined, with priority given to those determined to be in greatest need.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $6.3 million (FY00) ◆
Served: N/A

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☐ Encouraged ☑ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Starting Right, a three-year initiative enacted in 1998, addresses access to, and the quality and affordability of, early care and education services across the state. As part of the initiative, the state is funding Comprehensive Child Care Services Networks that will provide developmentally appropriate early education as well as a range of social services to 3- and 4-year olds who are not being served by Head Start. In addition, the initiative expands eligibility for child care subsidies, raises reimbursement rates, subsidizes health insurance for child care providers, and increases resources for provider training. A state-level implementation team and steering committee organized collaborative planning and implementation activities for the first year of the initiative, which is funded at $13 million over three years.

Related Initiatives

The ***Children's Cabinet*** coordinates planning across state agencies and makes policy recommendations to promote family-centered, community-based services. The Integrated Services Initiative Steering Committee, a state-level partnership reporting to the Children's Cabinet, provides leadership, coordination, training, and technical assistance to the Community Partnerships, which plan and deliver integrated services through the COZ Family Centers (see above).

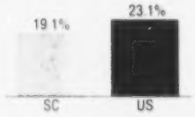
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

SOUTH CAROLINA

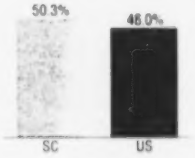
293,833 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 37 (1 is most unequal)

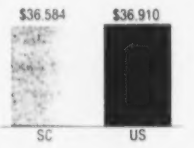
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



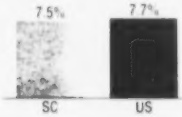
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

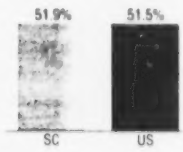
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $2,412

Percent of state median income: 6.6%

Percent of federal poverty level: 17.0%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: SC: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

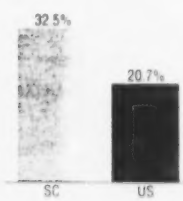
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (SC: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (SC: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,896

Percent of federal poverty level: 57.8%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

SC: 71.1% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

SOUTH CAROLINA

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

South Carolina has more than doubled its investment in child development and family support services since *Map and Track 1998*. In addition to implementing a new, statewide early education initiative, the state increased funding for existing programs, and used TANF funds to create a home-visiting program for first-time parents receiving TANF. The state also requires all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Prevent Child Abuse South Carolina*** (New) provides home visiting services to first-time parents who are receiving TANF. Based on the Healthy Families America model, home visitors offer support, parent education, and referral to services to families with children from birth to age 3. An effort is being made to coordinate across home visiting programs to avoid duplication and ensure maximum coverage of families.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.7 million (FY00) T
Served: N/A

3–6 ***Early Childhood Program*** provides half-day (2.5 hours), classroom-based early care and education, as well as nutritious meals and occasional home visits, for at-risk 4-year-olds. Priority is given to children with disabilities, but school districts set their own eligibility criteria and services.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $28 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 16,500 children (FY99)

0–6 ***Parenting/Family Literacy Programs*** offer home visits, group meetings, family literacy, parent education, and parent support to at-risk families with children from birth to age 5. School districts are required to provide the program, and must make intensive efforts to recruit parents whose children are at risk of school failure.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $5.7 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 19,314 parents (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

First Steps to School Readiness is a statewide early childhood education initiative for children from birth to age 6, designed to ensure that children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. Upon implementation in 1999, public/private partnership boards were formed in every county to assess local needs and resources and to develop strategic plans accordingly. Boards focus on issues such as lifelong learning, early education, health care, quality child care, and transportation. State funding was $20 million in fiscal year 2000 and is increasing to $30 million in fiscal year 2001.

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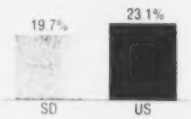
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

SOUTH DAKOTA

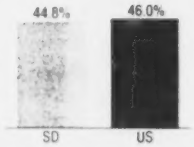
60,830 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 33 (1 is most unequal)

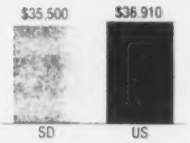
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



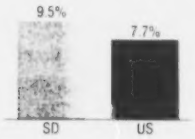
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

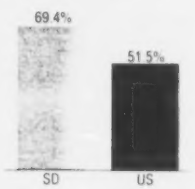
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,160

Percent of state median income: 14.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 36.5%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: SD: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

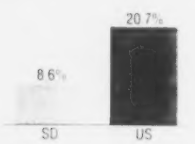
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☐ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (SD: 140% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (SD: 140% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $9,546

Percent of federal poverty level: 69.9%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

SD: 59.9% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

South Dakota does not fund any child development or family support programs for young children. In fiscal year 2001, *Bright Start for South Dakota's Children* is being implemented to support health and child development services for children from birth to age 6. It will have an initial budget of $1.3 million, drawn from participating agencies' budgets, TANF, and other federal sources.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

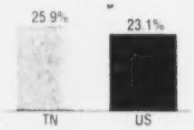
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

TENNESSEE

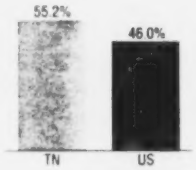
459,835 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 28 (1 is most unequal)

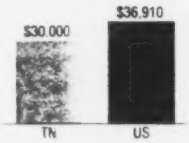
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



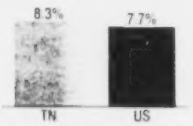
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

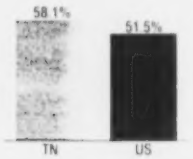
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $2,220

Percent of state median income: 7.4%

Percent of federal poverty level: 15.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: TN: 18% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

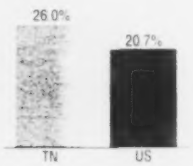
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (TN: 400% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (TN: 400% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $9,192

Percent of federal poverty level: 67.3%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL

TN: 67.8% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Although Tennessee's fiscal year 2000 investment in preschool services remains unchanged from the level reported in *Map and Track 1998*, funding will double in fiscal year 2001. The state continues to support home visiting programs for at-risk young children and their families.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Early Childhood Education and Parent Involvement Program*** offers full-day (5.5 hours), developmentally appropriate early care and education services to Head Start-eligible 3- and 4-year-olds and their families. Programs also provide wraparound child care, for a total of up to 10 hours per day of services. Children are assured access to the state CHIP program, Tenncare, as needed for health services; parent involvement services are provided through Family Resource Centers (see below).

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $3.1 million (FY00) ◆ [FY01: $6 million]
Served: 600 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Home visiting programs*** offer primary and secondary prevention for child abuse and neglect, and seek to improve child health, among families with children from birth to age 6. These programs include Healthy Start (screens for risk of child abuse and serves identified families, based on the Hawaii Healthy Start model), Child Health and Development (for families with pre-existing difficulties), and Help Us Grow (a short-term, health-oriented model).

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.8 million (FY00)
Served: 14,900 families (FY99)

Other ***Family Resource Centers*** focus primarily on serving families with school-age children but also serve sibling preschoolers. Typically located in schools, they offer parenting skills training and other family support services for families with at-risk children, in 68 percent of state counties. Centers provide the parent involvement component of the Early Childhood Education and Parent Involvement Program. Local Advisory Councils set Family Resource Center priorities.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $2.2 million (FY00) ◆

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

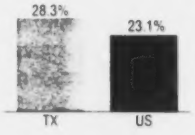
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

TEXAS

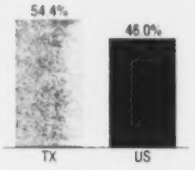
1,974,924 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 8 (1 is most unequal)

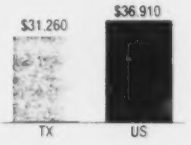
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



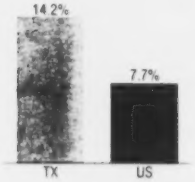
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

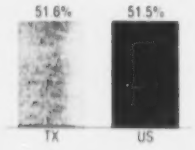
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $2,364

Percent of state median income: 7.6%

Percent of federal poverty level: 16.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: TX: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

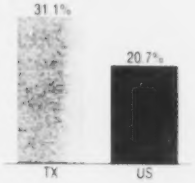
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (TX: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (TX: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $4,368

Percent of federal poverty level: 32.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

TX: 55.7% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Texas has increased its investment in early education by 37 percent by expanding prekindergarten, providing additional funds for full-day programming, and implementing a new Head Start supplement. Funding for home visits to high-risk families has increased.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6* ***Head Start Supplement*** (New): $7.5 million (FY00)

Prekindergarten Program offers classroom-based early care and education for 3- and 4-year-olds who are unable to speak or comprehend English, are low-income (i.e., eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program), or are homeless. The program provides half-day (3 hours) services for almost all eligible 4-year olds, and it is designed to develop the skills necessary for success in the public school curriculum, including language, mathematics, and social skills.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $269.2 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 140,639 children (FY00)

Prekindergarten Expansion Grants (New) are awarded to school districts to support full-day (6 hours) expansion of prekindergarten programs. The legislature allocated $200 million for the 2000–2001 fiscal year biennium, but $49.8 million is the total granted in fiscal year 2000.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $49.8 million (FY00)
Served: N/A

0–6 ***Healthy Families*** offers voluntary, strength-based home visits to families with children from birth to age 5. Based upon the Hawaii Healthy Start model, families assessed to be at risk of child abuse or other poor childhood outcomes are eligible for weekly home visits that diminish in frequency over time.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $2.7 million (FY00) T ▲
Served: 1,400 families (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

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* The *Ready to Read* grant program supports prereading instruction for preschool-age children. Prekindergarten programs can apply for grants if at least 75 percent of the children enrolled are low-income. Grants can be used for staff development in prereading instruction, curriculum and materials, assessment materials, and hiring instructors. Funding in fiscal year 2000 was $1 million.

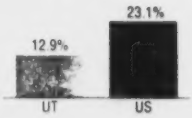
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

UTAH

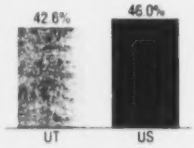
234,230 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 51 *(1 is most unequal)*

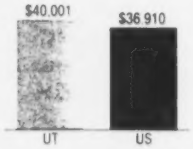
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



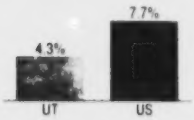
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

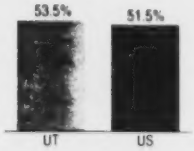
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $5,412

Percent of state median income: 13.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 38.2%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: UT: 10% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

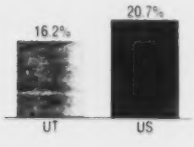
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (UT: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (UT: 200% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $7,884

Percent of federal poverty level: 57.8%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

UT: 42.1% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

There are no state programs providing child development or family support services in Utah, but the state continues to support local-level programs for children, through a collaborative initiative that brings together representatives from state- and local-level agencies. Since *Map and Track 1998*, the focus of the initiative has expanded to serve children from birth through grade 6; the level of funding has not changed significantly.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Related Initiatives

Families, Agencies, and Communities Together (FACT) is a statewide collaborative initiative to develop services which improve the health, safety, education, and economic well-being of children from birth to grade 6 and their families. The initiative focuses on families with multiple health, education, and social service needs that no single agency is in a position to address alone. To coordinate service planning and delivery, each county is served by a FACT Local Interagency Council of providers and administrators, which includes representatives from the state's departments for health, education, and human services. The state provides technical assistance to the counties, and invested $5 million in the initiative in fiscal year 2000.

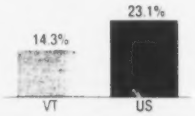
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

VERMONT

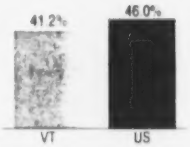
49,382 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 41 *(1 is most unequal)*

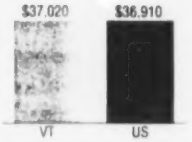
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



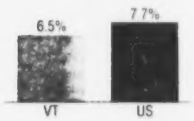
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 32.0%
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $5.75

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

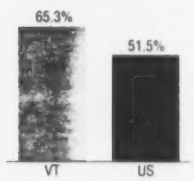
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $7,464

Percent of state median income: 20.2%

Percent of federal poverty level: 52.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: VT: 15% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

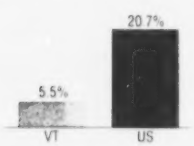
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (VT: 300% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (VT: 300% FPL)
- ☑ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $21,564

Percent of federal poverty level: 158.0%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

VT: 61.5% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Vermont has increased funding for its Early Education Initiative by 10 percent, with no significant change in funding for Success by Six and Parent-Child Centers. In addition, the state has continued to support interagency coordination and public/private collaboration at the state and local levels in early childhood programming.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Parent-Child Centers*** offer family support services to all families to promote positive parenting and child development. Services focus on families with children up to age 3, but centers also serve older children. Basic services are available statewide through a network of 16 centers and include child care, home visits, play groups, parent support groups, information and referral, parent education, drop-in services, and community development activities.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $824,000 (FY00) ◆
Served: 16,651 children ages 0–6 (FY99)

3–6 ***Early Education Initiative*** funds early education services for 3- and 4-year-olds who are at risk of school failure due to developmental delays, economic disadvantage, limited English skills, risk of abuse or neglect, or other factors. Hours of instruction vary, but the average is 8 hours per week. Services include classroom- and home-based early education, parent involvement, and parent education. Services are provided by public schools, Parent-Child Centers, child care centers, Head Start grantees, and other community-based organizations. The program is available in 59 percent of the state's towns, serving 30 to 35 percent of eligible children in these areas.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.4 million (FY00) ▲
Served: 1,081 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Success By Six*** provides a state-initiated, community-designed package of comprehensive services to ensure that children are ready for school and that schools are ready for children. Each community has a regional coordinator, often located in a Parent-Child Center or a school, and volunteers who plan and coordinate services. The program is available statewide, and though services vary based on local priorities, all communities provide a core of supportive services for families with children from birth to age 6. These include access to health care through referrals, Welcome Baby home visits, lactation support, family literacy, parent-child play groups, and transition to school programs such as "kindercamps."

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $1.6 million (FY00) ◆
Served: 19,600 children (FY99)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Early Childhood Steering Committee*** brings together representatives from the Departments of Health, Social Welfare, Education, and Employment; state childhood programs; community partnerships and community-based organizations and networks; child care programs and providers; and parent groups. The Steering Committee works to ensure a unified, comprehensive early childhood system in Vermont through activities that include identifying, coordinating, and integrating available resources and services; developing benchmarks and action plans; and serving as the Advisory Committee for statewide early childhood programs. It also supports the development and activities of local-level public/private partnerships, including Early Childhood Councils and Community Partnerships. Early Childhood Councils coordinate services for families with children from birth to age 8, working to promote the well-being of pregnant women and young children and to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. Community Partnerships coordinate services and supports for families with children of all ages, and often include a group that specifically addresses early childhood issues.

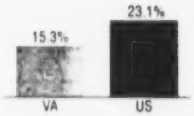
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

VIRGINIA

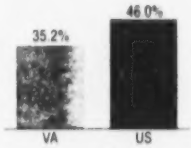
551,644 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 11 (1 is most unequal)

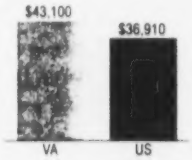
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



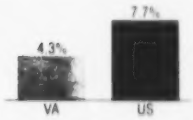
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

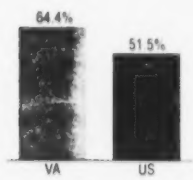
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,492

Percent of state median income: 8.1%

Percent of federal poverty level: 24.7%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: VA: 8% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

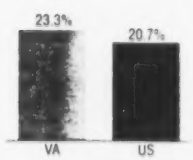
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (VA: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (VA: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $4,560

Percent of federal poverty level: 33.4%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

VA: 71.2% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Virginia has continued to support prekindergarten at essentially the same level, but funds no other child development or family support programs for young children.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Preschool Initiative*** offers full-day (6 hours) early care and education, parent involvement, child health and social services, and transportation to families with 4-year-olds at risk of school failure. Most programs are operated by public schools and some by community-based organizations. Local coordinating teams include public schools, as well as Head Start, child care, health, and social service providers.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $23.1 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 6,135 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☑ Compulsory ☐ Voluntary

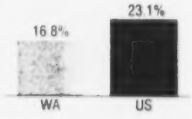
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

WASHINGTON

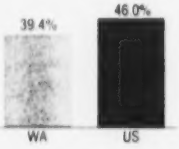
493,105 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 32 (1 is most unequal)

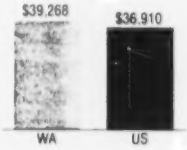
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



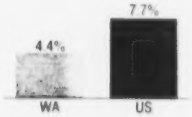
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☑ Above federal level of $5.15: $6.50

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

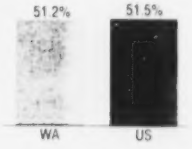
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $6,552

Percent of state median income: 16.7%

Percent of federal poverty level: 46.3%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: WA: 15% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

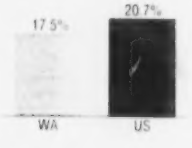
- ☑ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☑ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (WA: 250% FPL)
- ☑ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (WA: 250% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $13,080

Percent of federal poverty level: 95.8%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

WA: 60.9% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, funding for Washington's child development and family support programs has remained about the same. Although the state's Even Start literacy program has been discontinued, it has been replaced by a larger program with a broader focus. The state does not require school districts to provide kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $470,000 (FY00) ◆

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) offers half-day, comprehensive preschool services to low-income 4-year-olds living at up to 110 percent of the federal poverty level. Up to 10 percent of the children served may fall outside of the income guidelines if they are at risk; once all eligible 4-year-olds have been served, 3-year-olds may participate. Programs must follow performance standards that are similar to or more stringent than those for Head Start.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $28.9 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 8,014 children (FY00)

0–6 None reported.

Other ***Readiness to Learn Grants*** provide funds to local school-linked, community-based consortia to develop and implement strategies to ensure that children arrive at school every day "ready to learn." Efforts focus on integrating services of schools and health and human service providers. The majority of children served are students in kindergarten through grade 5. The state Family Policy Council approves the grants, and many of the Community Public Health and Safety Networks help plan and implement them (see below).

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $3.6 million (FY00) ◆

Families That Work (New) assists hard-to-employ and low-wage earning parents with both employment and family management skills while attending to the effects of parental employment on children and children's literacy needs. Program components include basic and work skills for parents, parent education and family management, age-appropriate care and education for children, and structured parent-child activities. Participating families must be receiving TANF or living below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. The program grew out of and replaces the state-funded Even Start program.

Eligibility: ☑ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal

Funding: $3 million (FY00) **T**

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☑ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Family Policy Council*** is a state-level collaborative body, which is composed of the chief officers of five agencies (Health, Social and Health Services, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Employment Security, and Community Trade and Development); representatives from the major caucuses of the legislature; and a representative from the governor's office. The Policy Council has established a set of outcomes for families, focusing on those with children from birth to age 8, and seeks local feedback and input on policy initiatives. The Family Policy Council oversees and provides technical assistance to Community Public Health and Safety Networks, which conduct community needs assessments, gauge local strengths and concerns, and devise local solutions. Legislation mandates the Networks to use preventive strategies to achieve specific outcomes for children and families. The Networks were supported by $3.8 million in state funds in fiscal year 2000.

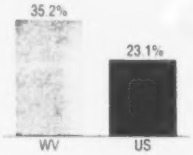
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

WEST VIRGINIA

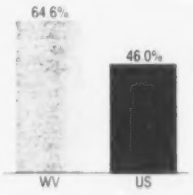
110,974 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 15 (1 is most unequal)

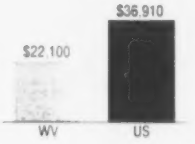
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



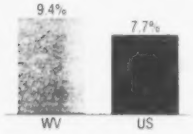
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

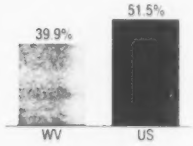
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $3,936

Percent of state median income: 17.8%

Percent of federal poverty level: 27.8%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: WV: 25% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

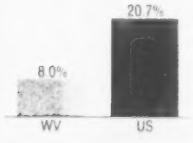
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (WV: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (WV: 150% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $4,104

Percent of federal poverty level: 30.1%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

WV: 86.3% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, West Virginia has increased funding for prekindergarten and family resource centers and introduced new parent education services for families with infants and toddlers. For fiscal year 2001, the legislature allocated $1 million to fund three Educare pilot sites, where funds will be distributed to community collaboratives to increase the quality and supply of services for families with children from birth to age 5 to ensure that children enter school ready to learn. The state requires all school districts to offer full-day kindergarten.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Early Parent Education Programs*** (New) offer home visits and parent education to families with children from birth to age 3, based on one of three models: Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families America, or Maternal and Infant Health Outreach Workers. Services are currently available in nearly 20 percent of counties in the state.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $405,000 (FY00)
Served: 452 families (FY00)

3–6 ***Public School Early Childhood Education*** provides state aid to counties to provide prekindergarten services for children under age 5. The state has no formal guidelines, but the Department of Education works closely with counties to design program components. Counties establish their own eligibility criteria.

Eligibility:* ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $6.2 million (FY99)** ▲
Served: 5,086 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Starting Points Family Resource Centers*** offer comprehensive child development, parent education, health, nutrition, and family support services to families with young children in schools or other neighborhood locations, beginning prenatally. Although services emphasize the needs of children under age 5, the centers can serve children up to age 8. Centers are available in 35 percent of counties.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $900,000 (FY00) ▲
Served: 9,771 families (FY00)

Child Development Program offers comprehensive infant-toddler, prekindergarten, parent education, family support, and other services for families with children who are at risk or have disabilities. There are currently three sites.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $152,075 (FY00) ▼
Served: 870 children (FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged ☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☑ Full-day ☐ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Family Resource Networks conduct collaborative community planning to identify the needs of children and families (including early childhood issues) and bring together comprehensive health, education, and social services in all counties in the state. Just over a third of the networks have implemented their plans through Starting Points Family Resource Centers (see above). In fiscal year 2000, the networks received a total of $1.6 million from state and TANF funds. The Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families provides leadership and technical assistance to the networks.

The ***Governor's Early Childhood Implementation Commission*** fosters school readiness by improving and coordinating child health and nutrition, family support and parent education, and early care and education programs. Current committees include Head Start-State Collaboration, Quality Improvement, Professional Development, Starting Points, Communications, Child Care, Transition, and one charged with promotion of family-friendly workplaces.

* Eligibility is locally determined.

** Funding data for fiscal year 2000 were not available at the time of publication.

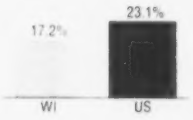
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

WISCONSIN

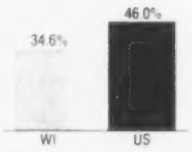
424,149 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 44 (1 is most unequal)

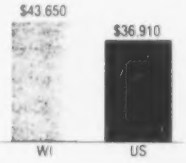
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



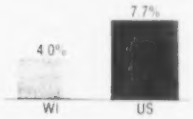
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies

- ☑ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☑ Refundable earned income credit—As a percent of the federal credit: 4%–43%*
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

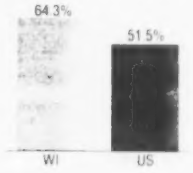
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $8,076

Percent of state median income: 18.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 57.1%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: WI: 7% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☑ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden

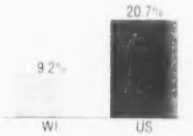
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (WI: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (WI: 185% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $8,844

Percent of federal poverty level: 64.8%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

WI: 48.2% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☑ State supplements WIC funding

* Depends on the number of children (1 child: 4%, 2 children: 14%, 3 children: 43%)

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Since *Map and Track 1998*, Wisconsin has expanded its Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program, while also increasing its Head Start supplement by almost 50 percent with TANF funds. The state continues to support home visitation, as well as other child abuse and neglect prevention services, for families with young children. Funding for centers that provide support services for families with infants and toddlers has been reduced by nearly a third.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 ***Family Resource Centers*** provide parent education and family support to prevent child abuse and neglect. The focus is on children from birth to age 3, but services are available to families with children up to age 13. Right from the Start, a family support program for at-risk, first-time parents, has been incorporated into these centers.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal
Funding: $1.7 million (FY00) ▼
Served: 5,900 adults; 6,300 children (FY99)

3–6 ***Head Start Supplement***: $7.43 million (FY00) T ▲

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is available to all 4-year-olds who reside in the 25 percent of school districts that choose to offer it. Services are half-day (2.5 to 3 hours) and are provided by schools and child care centers; some services are home-based.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☐ Selected risk factors ☑ Universal (where offered)
Funding: $33 million (FY00)
Served: 12,100 children (FY00)

0–6 ***Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program*** funds targeted case management for families with children. Sites receive flexible funds to cover services that are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, including home visits for families with children from birth to age 6, abuse prevention services for at-risk first-time parents, and abuse prevention services for families with children up to age 18. The program is available in 12.5 percent of counties and 1 of 11 tribes.

Eligibility: ☐ Low income ☑ Selected risk factors ☐ Universal
Funding: $1.3 million (FY00)
Served: 150 families (for home visits only: FY00)

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:
☐ Required ☑ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☐ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:
☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:
☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

Early Childhood Collaborative Partners Initiative is an effort staffed, funded, and operated by the Departments of Workforce Development, Public Instruction, and Health and Family Services. The state-level steering committee meets quarterly, with the goal of avoiding duplication of services by coordinating agency activities and enhancing collaboration.

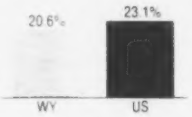
Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

WYOMING

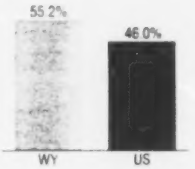
37,887 young children (0–6)

State rank in income inequality: 43 (1 is most unequal)

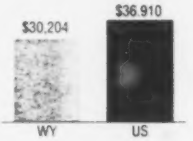
Percent of young children who live in poverty



Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)



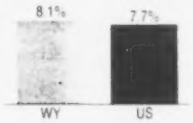
State median income for families with young children



State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Wage and Income Supports

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty



Income tax policies N/A: No state income tax

- ☐ State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- ☐ Refundable earned income credit
- ☐ Refundable dependent care credit

Minimum wage

- ☐ Above federal level of $5.15

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

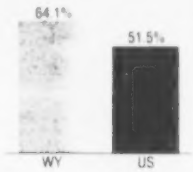
Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: $4,080

Percent of state median income: 13.5%

Percent of federal poverty level: 28.8%

Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time



CCDF subsidy coverage

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: WY: 11% US: 12%

Subsidy purchasing power

- ☐ Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

Subsidy co-payment burden N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies

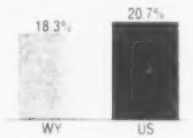
- ☐ Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL

State spending

- ☑ Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

Health and Nutrition Assistance

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance



Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

- ☐ Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL (WY: 133% FPL)
- ☐ Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL (WY: 133% FPL)
- ☐ Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: $9,468

Percent of federal poverty level: 69.4%

Food stamp coverage

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL:

WY: 48.5% US: 58.5%

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- ☐ State supplements WIC funding

Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

Overview

Wyoming does not fund any child development or family support programs for young children and their families.

Programs for Young Children and Their Families

0–3 None reported.

3–6 None reported.

0–6 None reported.

The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

☐ Required ☐ Encouraged
☐ None reported ☑ Not applicable

Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

☐ Full-day ☑ Half-day ☐ Not required

Kindergarten attendance:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Voluntary

Early Childhood Systems Development

The ***Governor's Early Childhood Development Council*** was established in 1997 as a statewide effort to coordinate and improve early childhood development programs. The council published a Parent Resource Guide designed to help parents locate services in their communities.

Funding change since *Map and Track 1998*: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

APPENDIX A

Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics

by Yuval Elmelech and Younghwan Song

Introduction

The demographic statistics reported in *Map and Track: State Initiatives for Young Children and Families, 2000 Edition* are based on NCCP analysis of Current Population Survey (CPS) data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Current Population Survey is the source of official U.S. government statistics on employment and unemployment. It is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households, selected to be representative of the civilian non-institutional population of the United States. The CPS collects information on labor force participation and employment, as well as on age, sex, race, marital status, educational attainment, and family structure. In addition, supplemental information is collected each March on work experience, annual income, poverty status, noncash benefits, health insurance, and migration.

The data used for this publication were taken from the March CPS supplements—also known as the Annual Demographic Files—from 1995, 1997, and 1999, representing information from calendar years 1994, 1996, and 1998. NCCP averaged three years of data because of the small sample sizes in less populated states, and we selected three out of five years to avoid any duplication of cases, given that many respondents are interviewed two years in a row. The analyses focus on young children, defined as children under age six, who live with their families, defined as two or more persons residing together and related by birth, marriage, or adoption (children living in foster families and children living in institutions are not included[1]). NCCP calculated these statistics using weights provided by the U.S. Census Bureau to yield results that are representative of the country's total population (weighted statistics take into account the different probabilities of the respondents to be included in the sample).[2] Unless otherwise noted below, the individual was the unit of analysis in *Map and Track* statistics, and figures were calculated using individual weights.

Number of young children

The number of children under age six (from birth through age five) residing in each state and in the District of Columbia was calculated using data from the March CPS, averaged across three years and weighted as described above.

Percent of young children who live in poverty and percent who are low-income

To calculate child poverty statistics, NCCP compared the income level of a child's family to the poverty thresholds issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition and are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).[3] Family income includes monetary income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (e.g., Medicaid, food stamps, public housing). Children are defined as "living in poverty" if they live in families whose income is below the poverty threshold. Children are defined as "low-income" if they live in families whose income is below 200 percent of the poverty threshold. Among the total number of young children, NCCP calculated the percentage that lived in poverty and the percentage that were low-income.

State median income for families with young children

The analysis of state median income was based on the income reported for families with at least one child under age six; unrelated "subfamilies" residing within the same household were treated as independent family units. The family was the unit of analysis, and figures were calculated using family weights.

Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty

A young child was considered to have at least one parent working full-time if a present parent—i.e., a parent who resides in the household with the child—worked full-year, full-time during the previous year (defined below). Among such children, NCCP calculated the percentage whose family income was below the poverty threshold.

Full-year work is defined as at least 50 weeks of work during the calendar year; part-year work is defined as less than 50 weeks of work. A person is classified as having worked full-time if the individual worked at least 35 hours per week during a majority of the weeks worked during the year. A person is classified as having worked part-time if the individual worked less than 35 hours per week during a majority of the weeks worked during the year. In this report, workers are defined as "full-time" if they worked full-year, full-time. Workers are defined as "part-time" if they worked: (1) full-year, part-time, (2) part-year, full-time, or (3) part-year, part-time.

Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time

A young child was considered to have parents employed full- or part-time if all present parents—i.e., both parents in a two-parent household, one parent in a single-parent household—worked at least part-time (defined above) during the previous year. Among low-income young children, NCCP calculated the percentage whose parents were employed full- or part-time.

Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance

The March CPS asks respondents whether their household members were covered by any of the following types of health insurance during the previous year: Medicare, Medicaid, military health care (including CHAMPUS, VA), employer/union paid health insurance, privately purchased health insurance, and health insurance of someone outside of the household. Respondents are not asked directly about whether they or their household members were uninsured throughout the previous year. In this analysis, a child was considered to lack health insurance if the child was not covered in any way by any of the insurance types listed above. NCCP calculated the percentage that lacked health insurance among low-income young children.

The CPS added a set of more extensive health insurance questions to the annual March survey beginning in 1996, but in this analysis, NCCP relies on the original set of questions to allow averaging over the period from 1994 to 1998. Analysis based on the new set of questions leads to only a minor difference in the percentage of uninsured young children in 1996 and 1998.[4]

The CPS health insurance questions ask about coverage at any time during the previous year, so in theory, estimates of the percent of individuals who are uninsured should estimate those without coverage throughout the previous year. However in practice, CPS estimates of the uninsured are found to be closer to the point-in-time estimates from other surveys. For example, a study conducted by Bennefield in 1996 showed that CPS estimates of the uninsured in 1991, 1992, and 1993 (14.1 percent, 14.7 percent, and 15.3 percent, respectively) were closer to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) point-in-time estimates for those years (14.8 percent, 14.6 percent, and 14.5 percent, respectively) than to the SIPP annual estimates (7.0 percent, 7.6 percent, and 7.7 percent, respectively).[5] Therefore, the young child health insurance statistics presented in this report may reflect point-in-time estimates rather than lack of coverage during the prior year. Even with these limitations, the CPS is the best data source for timely estimations of uninsured children at the state level.

Endnotes

1. "Secondary Individuals" are excluded from the analyses in this report. These are people of any age who reside in a household, but are not related to the householder (except unrelated subfamily members). People who reside in group quarters are also secondary individuals. Examples of a secondary individual include: (1) a guest, partner, roommate, or resident employee; (2) a foster child; or (3) a person residing in a rooming house, a halfway house, staff quarters at a hospital, or other type of group quarters. (For more information on the definition of household members see <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cps/cpsdef.html>.)

2. For more information on the weighting procedure see, for example: <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/tp/tp63.html>.

3. The CPI reflects spending patterns for each of two population groups: All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The CPI-U represents about 87 percent of the total U.S. population and it is based on expenditures of almost all residents of urban or metropolitan areas, including professionals, the self-employed, the poor, the unemployed, retired persons, as well as urban wage earners and clerical workers. Not included in the CPI are the spending patterns of persons living in rural-nonmetropolitan areas, farm families, persons in the armed forces, and those in institutions, such as prisons and mental hospitals. (For more information on the CPI see <http://www.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>.)

4. Using the new health insurance variables reduces the percentage of uninsured U.S. children under age six living in families below 200 percent of poverty by 0.15 percent compared to the results based on pre-existing health insurance variables for 1996–1998. All of this increase is due to the increased reporting of military health care coverage.

5. The differences between the CPS estimates and the SIPP annual estimates are mostly due to differences in private insurance coverage. See Bennefield, R. L. (1996). *A comparative analysis of health insurance coverage estimates: Data from CPS and SIPP* (SIPP Working Paper No. 218; presented at the 1996 Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association). Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.

Additionally, a study published by Lewis, Ellwood, and Czajka in 1998 suggests that CPS data underreport Medicaid coverage compared to yearly "Medicaid eligibles" from Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) 2082 reports. According to their comparison, the CPS Medicaid underreport for people from birth to age 65 is approximately 20 percent in 1994 and 1995. However (and similarly to the SIPP results described above), when CPS Medicaid reporting is compared to the HCFA June point-in-time Medicaid population <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/trends98.htm>, the CPS Medicaid underreport is less than 6 percent during the same years. The exact level of underestimation requires further analysis.

See Lewis, K.; Ellwood, M.; & Czajka, J. L. (1998). *Counting the uninsured: A review of the literature* (Occasional Paper No. 8). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration. HCFA 2082 tables for 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998.

Appendix B

Demographic Statistics

Table 1: Number of Young Children and Poverty Statistics for Young Children, by State, 1994–1998

State	Total number of young children (0–6)	Low-income young children*		Young children in poverty	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
U.S.	*23,790,958*	*10,948,183*	*46.0%*	*5,502,734*	*23.1%*
Alabama	360,291	185,255	51.4%	100,262	27.8%
Alaska	66,282	21,574	32.5%	9,097	13.7%
Arizona	487,198	284,752	58.4%	147,646	30.3%
Arkansas	208,778	122,981	58.9%	51,805	24.8%
California	3,288,388	1,715,948	52.2%	943,932	28.7%
Colorado	316,351	115,738	36.6%	47,475	15.0%
Connecticut	280,649	87,302	31.1%	48,446	17.3%
Delaware	58,616	27,763	47.4%	10,173	17.4%
District of Columbia	46,505	30,401	65.4%	20,877	44.9%
Florida	1,132,908	567,931	50.1%	290,916	25.7%
Georgia	641,830	290,082	45.2%	144,827	22.6%
Hawaii	100,451	41,763	41.6%	16,000	15.9%
Idaho	110,143	59,772	54.3%	26,501	24.1%
Illinois	1,117,291	456,360	40.8%	225,177	20.2%
Indiana	533,771	208,825	39.1%	92,008	17.2%
Iowa	248,804	108,413	43.6%	41,015	16.5%
Kansas	239,016	106,229	44.4%	44,463	18.6%
Kentucky	301,795	146,656	48.6%	73,513	24.4%
Louisiana	384,628	216,827	56.4%	139,243	36.2%
Maine	86,009	34,318	39.9%	16,142	18.8%
Maryland	467,056	145,736	31.2%	64,449	13.8%
Massachusetts	512,515	165,949	32.4%	79,843	15.6%
Michigan	900,173	376,070	41.8%	201,162	22.3%
Minnesota	423,632	149,346	35.3%	74,166	17.5%
Mississippi	245,888	148,863	60.5%	78,216	31.8%
Missouri	461,607	198,543	43.0%	88,115	19.1%
Montana	75,940	40,104	52.8%	18,600	24.5%
Nebraska	162,202	67,671	41.7%	31,689	19.5%
Nevada	145,284	57,384	39.5%	22,014	15.2%
New Hampshire	100,625	37,688	37.5%	14,046	14.0%
New Jersey	682,319	197,956	29.0%	85,265	12.5%
New Mexico	179,276	110,662	61.7%	61,095	34.1%
New York	1,601,942	772,189	48.2%	447,095	27.9%
North Carolina	588,322	262,341	44.6%	133,330	22.7%
North Dakota	52,437	23,376	44.6%	10,588	20.2%
Ohio	948,773	419,284	44.2%	220,864	23.3%
Oklahoma	250,605	133,684	53.3%	66,516	26.5%
Oregon	272,821	153,028	56.1%	58,346	21.4%
Pennsylvania	950,528	379,568	39.9%	173,436	18.2%
Rhode Island	68,517	27,908	40.7%	13,766	20.1%
South Carolina	293,833	147,876	50.3%	56,227	19.1%
South Dakota	60,830	27,253	44.8%	11,967	19.7%
Tennessee	459,835	253,990	55.2%	119,003	25.9%
Texas	1,974,924	1,075,155	54.4%	558,849	28.3%
Utah	234,230	99,890	42.6%	30,237	12.9%
Vermont	49,382	20,349	41.2%	7,052	14.3%
Virginia	551,644	193,932	35.2%	84,563	15.3%
Washington	493,105	194,289	39.4%	82,952	16.8%
West Virginia	110,974	71,686	64.6%	39,114	35.2%
Wisconsin	424,149	146,612	34.6%	72,850	17.2%
Wyoming	37,887	20,911	55.2%	7,801	20.6%

* Low-income young children are children under age 6 living in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Source

NCCP analysis of March Current Population Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. (See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for more information.)

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Appendix B

Demographic Statistics

Table 2: State Median Income for Families with Young Children, 1994–1998, and State Rank in Income Inequality, 1996–1998

State	State median income for families with young children (0–6)	State rank in income inequality*
	1	2
U.S.	*$36,910*	
Alabama	$33,784	12
Alaska	$46,284	46
Arizona	$29,000	3
Arkansas	$29,200	29
California	$34,300	6
Colorado	$43,000	47
Connecticut	$53,165	20
Delaware	$34,340	38
District of Columbia	$24,284	1
Florida	$32,600	14
Georgia	$35,700	13
Hawaii	$40,275	21
Idaho	$34,300	40
Illinois	$42,240	24
Indiana	$36,877	50
Iowa	$36,620	49
Kansas	$38,104	22
Kentucky	$30,725	10
Louisiana	$30,449	5
Maine	$34,100	45
Maryland	$55,550	31
Massachusetts	$48,800	17
Michigan	$41,400	30
Minnesota	$48,004	36
Mississippi	$27,020	16
Missouri	$38,086	34
Montana	$31,293	27
Nebraska	$36,515	42
Nevada	$40,000	39
New Hampshire	$41,974	35
New Jersey	$55,050	25
New Mexico	$26,048	4
New York	$35,200	2
North Carolina	$37,780	18
North Dakota	$34,778	48
Ohio	$35,122	23
Oklahoma	$33,500	19
Oregon	$30,975	9
Pennsylvania	$40,551	26
Rhode Island	$38,104	7
South Carolina	$36,584	37
South Dakota	$35,500	33
Tennessee	$30,000	28
Texas	$31,260	8
Utah	$40,001	51
Vermont	$37,020	41
Virginia	$43,100	11
Washington	$39,268	32
West Virginia	$22,100	15
Wisconsin	$43,650	44
Wyoming	$30,204	43

* State rank (out of 51, including the District of Columbia) based on the income gap between the average income of the poorest fifth of families and the average income of the richest fifth of families in the state (1 is the most unequal).

Sources, by column number:

1. NCCP analysis of March Current Population Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. (See Appendix A, *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for more information.)

2. Bernstein, J., McNichol, E. C., Mishel, L., & Zahradnik, R. (2000). *Pulling apart: A state-by-state analysis of income trends*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from 1996–1998.

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Appendix B

Demographic Statistics

Table 3: Parental Employment and Health Insurance Coverage for Low-Income Young Children* and Young Children in Poverty, by State, 1994–1998

State	Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty	Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain low-income	Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time	Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance
U.S.	*7.7%*	*30.9%*	*51.5%*	*20.7%*
Alabama	5.2%	34.0%	56.3%	22.2%
Alaska	5.0%	22.8%	54.6%	17.9%
Arizona	12.5%	44.5%	45.3%	32.7%
Arkansas	9.8%	48.4%	67.7%	23.9%
California	12.4%	36.2%	40.0%	22.7%
Colorado	4.0%	25.7%	56.0%	19.1%
Connecticut	2.9%	13.9%	57.4%	11.7%
Delaware	5.5%	33.0%	63.2%	28.9%
District of Columbia	11.4%	34.9%	43.8%	21.3%
Florida	8.5%	35.4%	52.9%	22.7%
Georgia	8.5%	32.6%	61.4%	21.9%
Hawaii	3.9%	30.8%	56.6%	10.2%
Idaho	11.8%	42.1%	54.8%	21.4%
Illinois	5.3%	24.7%	54.4%	16.2%
Indiana	4.6%	27.9%	61.8%	14.0%
Iowa	5.2%	31.7%	64.4%	11.4%
Kansas	6.4%	32.3%	63.6%	17.8%
Kentucky	8.5%	33.3%	58.6%	22.9%
Louisiana	11.2%	34.4%	46.6%	24.0%
Maine	1.1%	18.8%	74.6%	11.4%
Maryland	2.4%	17.1%	47.7%	16.9%
Massachusetts	1.8%	18.1%	44.3%	8.4%
Michigan	5.1%	24.7%	51.7%	11.7%
Minnesota	7.7%	25.8%	65.0%	22.2%
Mississippi	8.8%	42.0%	60.6%	23.0%
Missouri	4.6%	26.7%	71.5%	13.6%
Montana	9.5%	40.5%	63.2%	10.5%
Nebraska	9.5%	31.0%	67.7%	7.7%
Nevada	6.4%	31.1%	51.7%	32.5%
New Hampshire	5.4%	20.9%	62.9%	13.4%
New Jersey	3.2%	16.7%	43.0%	23.6%
New Mexico	16.6%	48.6%	49.5%	20.6%
New York	8.3%	28.0%	37.2%	18.2%
North Carolina	6.7%	29.6%	63.0%	18.0%
North Dakota	8.8%	32.5%	77.0%	17.0%
Ohio	5.0%	27.8%	49.9%	13.5%
Oklahoma	8.9%	38.2%	63.5%	31.6%
Oregon	7.2%	41.1%	58.9%	16.2%
Pennsylvania	5.2%	26.3%	50.4%	15.1%
Rhode Island	2.9%	22.7%	54.6%	5.3%
South Carolina	7.5%	40.4%	51.9%	32.5%
South Dakota	9.5%	35.0%	69.4%	8.6%
Tennessee	8.3%	40.0%	58.1%	26.0%
Texas	14.2%	41.9%	51.6%	31.1%
Utah	4.3%	32.4%	53.5%	16.2%
Vermont	6.5%	28.3%	65.3%	5.5%
Virginia	4.3%	23.8%	64.4%	23.3%
Washington	4.4%	25.3%	51.2%	17.5%
West Virginia	9.4%	45.4%	39.9%	8.0%
Wisconsin	4.0%	20.7%	64.3%	9.2%
Wyoming	8.1%	45.1%	64.1%	18.3%

* Low-income young children are children under age 6 living in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Source

NCCP analysis of March Current Population Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. (See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for more information.)

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Appendix C

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Table 1: State Income Tax Policies, 1999–2000

State	State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level 1	Refundable earned income credit: Percent of federal credit 2	Refundable dependent care credit: Maximum credit for a family with 2 or more dependents 3
Alabama			
Alaska	N/A		
Arizona	x		
Arkansas			$288 [c]
California	x		
Colorado	x	10%	$720
Connecticut	x		
Delaware			
District of Columbia	x	10%	
Florida	N/A		
Georgia			
Hawaii			$1,200
Idaho	x		
Illinois			
Indiana			
Iowa	x		$1,080
Kansas	x	10%	
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
Maine	x		
Maryland	x	15%	
Massachusetts	x	10%	
Michigan			
Minnesota	x	34% [a]	$1,440
Mississippi	x		
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska	x		$1,440 [d]
Nevada	N/A		
New Hampshire	N/A		
New Jersey		10%	
New Mexico	x		$960 [e]
New York	x	22.5%	$1,440
North Carolina			
North Dakota	x		
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania	x		
Rhode Island	x		
South Carolina	x		
South Dakota	N/A		
Tennessee	N/A		
Texas	N/A		
Utah			
Vermont	x	32%	
Virginia			
Washington	N/A		
West Virginia			
Wisconsin	x	4%–43% [b]	
Wyoming	N/A		

N/A: State does not tax personal income.

[a] This is an average; the percent varies by earnings.

[b] Depends on the number of children (1 child: 4%; 2 children: 14%; 3 children: 43%).

[c] Only for care of children ages 3 to 5 in an accredited, developmentally appropriate early childhood education program.

[d] For taxpayers with a federal adjusted gross income of $29,000 or less.

[e] $960 for 2 dependents; $1,200 for 3 or more dependents.

Sources, by column number:

1. Johnson, N.; Zahradnik, R.; & McNichol, E. C. (2000). *State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from tax year 1999.

2. Johnson, N. (2000). *A hand up: How state earned income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from November 2000.

3. Steinschneider, J.; Donahue, E. H.; Campbell, N. D.; & Williams, V. L. (1998). *Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, with updates from National Women's Law Center. (2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions. Tax year 2000 [unpublished table]. Data are from December 1999.

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Appendix C

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Table 2: State Minimum Wage Levels and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Benefits, 2000

State	Minimum wage above federal level of $5.15	TANF benefit—single-parent family of three with no earnings		
		Maximum annual benefit	Maximum annual benefit as a percent of state median income	Maximum annual benefit as a percent of federal poverty level
	1	2	3	4
Alabama		$1,968	6%	14%
Alaska	$5.65	$11,076	24%	78%
Arizona		$4,164	14%	29%
Arkansas		$2,448	8%	17%
California	$5.75	$7,512	22%	53%
Colorado		$4,272	10%	30%
Connecticut	$6.15	$6,516	12%	46%
Delaware	$5.65	$4,056	12%	29%
District of Columbia	$6.15	$4,548	19%	32%
Florida		$3,636	11%	26%
Georgia		$3,360	9%	24%
Hawaii	$5.25	$6,840	17%	48%
Idaho		$3,516	10%	25%
Illinois		$4,524	11%	32%
Indiana		$3,456	9%	24%
Iowa		$5,112	14%	36%
Kansas		$4,836	13%	34%
Kentucky		$3,144	10%	22%
Louisiana		$2,280	7%	16%
Maine		$5,532	16%	39%
Maryland		$5,004	9%	35%
Massachusetts	$6.00	$6,780	14%	48%
Michigan		$5,508	13%	39%
Minnesota		$9,468 [a]	N/A [a]	N/A [a]
Mississippi		$2,040	8%	14%
Missouri		$3,504	9%	25%
Montana		$5,616	18%	40%
Nebraska		$4,368	12%	31%
Nevada		$4,176	10%	30%
New Hampshire		$7,200	17%	51%
New Jersey		$5,088	9%	36%
New Mexico		$5,268	20%	37%
New York		$6,924	20%	49%
North Carolina		$3,264	9%	23%
North Dakota		$5,484	16%	39%
Ohio		$4,476	13%	32%
Oklahoma		$3,504	10%	25%
Oregon	$6.50	$5,520	18%	39%
Pennsylvania		$4,836	12%	34%
Rhode Island	$5.65	$6,648	17%	47%
South Carolina		$2,412	7%	17%
South Dakota		$5,160	15%	36%
Tennessee		$2,220	7%	16%
Texas		$2,364	8%	17%
Utah		$5,412	14%	38%
Vermont	$5.75	$7,464	20%	53%
Virginia		$3,492	8%	25%
Washington	$6.50	$6,552	17%	46%
West Virginia		$3,936	18%	28%
Wisconsin		$8,076	19%	57%
Wyoming		$4,080	14%	29%

[a] Minnesota provides a cash grant that combines TANF and food stamp benefits; $9,468 is the total amount.

Sources, by column number

1. U.S. Department of Labor. (2000). Minimum wage laws in the states: Minimum Wage and Overtime Premium Pay Standards Applicable to Nonsupervisory NONFARM Private Sector Employment Under State and Federal Laws, August 1, 2000. <http://www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/minwage/america.htm> Data are from August 2000.

2. State Policy Documentation Project. (2000). TANF cash assistance: Categorical and financial eligibility rules. <http://www.spdp.org/tanf/cat-fin.htm> Data are from June 2000.

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*

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State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Table 3: Child Care Assistance through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), 1999

State	CCDF subsidy coverage rate (US: 12%)	Follows recommended federal guidelines on:		Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF
		Subsidy purchasing power	Subsidy co-payment burden	
	1	2	3	4
Alabama	11%		N/A	x
Alaska	13%	x	x	x
Arizona	13%			x
Arkansas	6%	x	N/A	
California	13%	x [a]	x	x
Colorado	11%		x	
Connecticut	5%		x	
Delaware	12%			x
District of Columbia	3%		x	x
Florida	8%	x	x	x
Georgia	8%		x	x
Hawaii	9%		x	x
Idaho	11%	x	N/A	x
Illinois	14%	x [b]	x	x
Indiana	7%		x	x
Iowa	8%		N/A	x
Kansas	7%		x	x
Kentucky	15%		N/A	x
Louisiana	18%	x	x	x
Maine	15%	x	x	x
Maryland	8%	x	N/A	x
Massachusetts	13%		x	x
Michigan	19%		x	x
Minnesota	6%	x	x	x
Mississippi	10%		x	x
Missouri	19%		N/A	x
Montana	11%	x		x
Nebraska	11%	x	x	
Nevada	6%	x		
New Hampshire	9%		x	
New Jersey	10%		x	x
New Mexico	13%	x	x	x
New York	19%		[c]	x
North Carolina	16%		x	x
North Dakota	12%			
Ohio	10%	x	x	
Oklahoma	16%		x	x
Oregon	11%			
Pennsylvania	15%		x	x
Rhode Island	15%		x	x
South Carolina	8%	x	x	x
South Dakota	8%			
Tennessee	18%		x	x
Texas	8%	x	x	x
Utah	10%	x		x
Vermont	15%	x	x	x
Virginia	8%	x	x	x
Washington	15%		x	x
West Virginia	25%		N/A	x
Wisconsin	7%	x		x
Wyoming	11%		N/A	x

N/A: Family of three at 150% FPL is not eligible for CCDF subsidies.

[a] The state rate in California is set at 1.5 standard deviations above the average MRS from 1997.

[b] Illinois has three regional rates; given variation among counties, rates may be above, equal to, or below the 75th percentile in a particular county.

[c] Co-payment rates vary by county.

Sources, by column number:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in Fiscal Year 1999 (average monthly) [table]. <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/cctable.htm> Data are from fiscal year 1999.

This table updates the information reported in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (1999). *Access to child care for low-income working families*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

2. Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). *State developments in child care and early education, 1999*. Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund. Data are from June 1999.

3. *Ibid.*

4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Financial Services. (2000). TANF program expenditures in FY 1999 through the 4th quarter. <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/q499/table-d.htm> Data are from fiscal year 1999.

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Appendix C

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Table 4: Health and Nutrition Assistance, 1998–2000

State	Medicaid/CHIP eligibility levels as a percent of the federal poverty level:			Food stamp coverage rate for children under age 5	State supplements WIC funding
	Infants (0–1)	Children (1–6)	Parents		
	1	2	3	4	5
Alabama	200%	200%	22%	65.3%	
Alaska	200%	200%	156%	62.9%	
Arizona	200%	200%	51%	35.4%	
Arkansas	200%	200%	56%	64.3%	
California	250%	250%	157%	52.2%	
Colorado	185%	185%	45%	53.2%	
Connecticut	300%	300%	100%	66.9%	
Delaware	200%	200%	108%	63.4%	
District of Columbia	200%	200%	200%	74.5%	x
Florida	200%	200%	71%	52.6%	
Georgia	200%	200%	45%	78.0%	
Hawaii	185%	133%	115%	111.5%	
Idaho	150%	150%	36%	37.6%	
Illinois	200%	185%	52%	61.7%	
Indiana	200%	200%	33%	54.4%	
Iowa	185%	185%	93%	47.4%	
Kansas	200%	200%	67%	38.1%	
Kentucky	200%	200%	54%	62.3%	
Louisiana	150%	150%	23%	67.8%	
Maine	200%	200%	108%	66.8%	
Maryland	200%	200%	46%	75.1%	x
Massachusetts	200%	200%	133%	66.1%	x
Michigan	200%	200%	48%	62.0%	
Minnesota	280% [a]	275%	275%	48.4%	x
Mississippi	200%	200%	40%	67.4%	
Missouri	300%	300%	100%	73.7%	
Montana	150%	150%	73%	52.0%	
Nebraska	185%	185%	43%	50.2%	x
Nevada	200%	200%	38%	45.0%	
New Hampshire	300%	300%	60%	35.0%	
New Jersey	350%	350%	47%	78.0%	
New Mexico	235%	235%	62%	44.7%	x
New York	230%	230%	94%	59.8%	x
North Carolina	200%	200%	56%	62.4%	x
North Dakota	140%	140%	55%	38.6%	
Ohio	150%	150%	85%	53.0%	
Oklahoma	185%	185%	37%	69.0%	
Oregon	170%	170%	100%	44.4%	
Pennsylvania	235%	235%	71%	69.9%	
Rhode Island	250%	250%	193%	88.6%	
South Carolina	185%	150%	59%	71.1%	
South Dakota	140%	140%	70%	59.9%	
Tennessee	400%	400%	67%	67.8%	
Texas	200%	200%	32%	55.7%	
Utah	200%	200%	58%	42.1%	
Vermont	300%	300%	158%	61.5%	
Virginia	185%	185%	33%	71.2%	
Washington	250%	250%	96%	60.9%	x
West Virginia	150%	150%	30%	86.3%	x
Wisconsin	185%	185%	65%	48.2%	x
Wyoming	133%	133%	69%	48.5%	

[a] Children below age 2 are covered up to 280% of the federal poverty level.

Sources, by column number

1. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2000). State income eligibility guidelines for children's Medicaid and separate child health insurance programs [table]. <http://www.cbpp.org/shsh/elig.htm> Data are from April 2000.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Guyer, J. & Mann, C. (1999). *Employed but not insured: A state-by-state analysis of the number of low-income working parents who lack health insurance.* Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from February 1999.

4. U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2000). *Characteristics of food stamp households: Fiscal year 1998.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture. Data are from fiscal year 1998.

5. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Supplemental Food Programs Division. (2000). WIC program: State appropriations–fiscal year 2000 [unpublished table]. Data are from fiscal year 2000.

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Appendix C

State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

Table 5: Strategies to Increase Enrollment for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), 2000

State	Presumptive eligibility		12-month continuous eligibility		No assets test		Self-declaration of income	
	Medicaid*	CHIP**	Medicaid*	CHIP**	Medicaid*	CHIP**	Medicaid*	CHIP**
Alabama	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Alaska	N		N		Y		N	
Arizona	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Arkansas	N		N		N		N	
California	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Colorado	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N
Connecticut	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Delaware	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
District of Columbia	N		N		Y		N	
Florida	N	N	Y[a]	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Georgia	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hawaii	N		N		Y		N	
Idaho	N		Y		N		Y	
Illinois	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Indiana	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Iowa	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Kansas	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Kentucky	N	N	N	N[b]	Y	Y	N	N
Louisiana	N		Y		Y		N	
Maine	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Maryland	N		N		Y		Y	
Massachusetts	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Michigan	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Minnesota	N		N		Y		N	
Mississippi	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Missouri	N		N		N		N	
Montana	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Nebraska	Y		Y		Y		N	
Nevada	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
New Hampshire	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
New Jersey	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
New Mexico	Y		Y		Y		N	
New York	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
North Carolina	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
North Dakota	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N
Ohio	N		N		Y		N	
Oklahoma	N		N		Y		Y	
Oregon	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Pennsylvania	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Rhode Island	N		N		Y		N	
South Carolina	N		Y		Y		N	
South Dakota	N		N		Y		N	
Tennessee	N		N		Y		N	
Texas	N	N	N	N[b]	N	Y	N	N
Utah	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Vermont	N		N		Y		Y	
Virginia	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Washington	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
West Virginia	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Wisconsin	N		N		Y		N	
Wyoming	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

* Includes expanded Medicaid programs funded through CHIP.

** Separate CHIP-funded programs (i.e., does not include expanded Medicaid)

[a] 12-month continuous eligibility for children under age 5 only

[b] In development

Source

Cox, L. & Ross, D. C. (2000). *Medicaid for children and CHIP income eligibility guidelines and enrollment procedures: Findings from a 50-state survey, preliminary report.* Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Data are from March 2000.

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